

FD-263 (Rev. 1-7-72)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>DETROIT</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>10/17/73</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>10/16 - 17/73</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>CHANGED GERALD RUDOLPH FORD, aka. Gerald R. Ford, Jerry Ford, Leslie King, Jr.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED]</b>	TYPED BY
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>	

Title is marked changed to show appointee's true name as GERALD RUDOLPH FORD, and the additional name of Jerry Ford as determined through investigation.

REFERENCE: Bureau teletype, dated 10/15/73.

- P -

## LEADS

Extensive investigation continuing in Michigan.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
APPROVED <b>NEW/sep</b> COPIES MADE: 6 - Bureau (AMSD) 1 - Detroit (161-1355)  <b>57 JAN 2 1974</b>						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW  <b>MCT-13</b> <b>REC-88</b> <b>REC-88</b>	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency							
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

**57 JAN 2 1974**

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COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

## Report of:

## Date:

SA [REDACTED]  
October 17, 1973

Office: Detroit, Michigan

## Field Office File #:

161-1355

## Bureau File #:

## Title:

GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

## Character:

SPECIAL INQUIRY

## Synopsis:

Education verified and favorable. Appointee member of Michigan State Bar Association and Grand Rapids Bar Association. Grievance Committee negative. Federal, State and local judges, educators, state officials of both major parties, city officials of major Michigan Cities, law enforcement officials, members of minority groups, businessmen, associates, leaders of organizations, labor leaders and labor attorneys and religious leaders interviewed. Most recommended. Some would not recommend because of appointee's party affiliations, his standing on busing, a possible controversy regarding election funds, or that he was not qualified for position. Long time employees of appointee recommend. President of Old Kent Bank stated appointee offered position but did not accept because of possible conflict of interests. Newspaper articles set forth. Marriages and divorce of appointee's wife verified. Credit and arrest negative.

- P -

DETAILS:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. EDUCATION.....	2
II. BAR ASSOCIATIONS.....	12
III. FEDERAL JUDGES.....	16
IV. UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS.....	26
V. STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIARY.....	28
VI. WAYNE COUNTY AND DETROIT JUDGES.....	48
VII. MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN STATE LEGISLATURE.....	90
VIII. REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS.....	100
IX. DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS.....	113
X. MEMBERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES OTHER THAN REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRAT.....	130
XI. GRAND RAPIDS CITY OFFICIALS.....	131
XII. DETROIT CITY OFFICIALS.....	145
XIII. RELIGIOUS LEADERS.....	151
XIV. BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY.....	156
XV. LABOR LEADERS.....	192
XVI. PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE MINORITY GROUPS.....	214
XVII. NEWS MEDIA.....	227
XVIII. EDUCATORS.....	264
XIX. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.....	275
XX. ASSOCIATES.....	290

	Page
XXI. ORGANIZATIONS.....	338
XXII. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.....	350
XXIII. MARRIAGE.....	381
XXIV. WIFE'S DIVORCE.....	387
XXV. CREDIT AND ARREST.....	388



EDUCATION

DE 161-1355  
EWK/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

[REDACTED], Secretary, South Middle School, 110 Hall Street, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, made available the records of South Grand Rapids High School. These records verified that GERALD R. FORD, JR. graduated from South High School in June, 1931, with good grades; in addition, these records reflected that FORD participated in football and weightlifting while at South High School. [REDACTED] stated that Miss MARJORIE SHEPARD, 700 Reynard, Southeast, Grand Rapids, was GERALD FORD's principal during his attendance at South High School.

Records of South High School further showed no disciplinary or other adverse action against FORD while in attendance at South High School.

DE 161-1355  
HKM/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

EDUCATION

MARJORIE A. SHEPPARD, 700 Reynard, SE, Grand Rapids, former principal of South High School, Grand Rapids, advised she has known Appointee since he was in junior high school. SHEPPARD advised she has instructed Appointee in school at South High School and he was a very model student being academically gifted as well as athletically. SHEPPARD advised Appointee has on frequent occasions come back to the high school and spoken to assemblies. SHEPPARD dwelt on Appointee's high standards and loyalty stating if anything derogatory is ever uncovered she would be extremely surprised and disappointed. SHEPPARD advised she recommended him highly to the position to which he is being appointed based on her knowledge of his character, reputation, loyalty and associates.

DE 161-1355  
HKM/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

SHERMAN CORYELL, 6746 Ada Drive, SE, advised he has known Appointee since 1929. CORYELL stated Appointee was captain of the South High School football team and, additionally, played for the University of Michigan team where he displayed distinguished characteristics to become an "All American" player. CORYELL advised he was the Principal of South High School several years after Appointee graduated and Appointee frequently comes back for class parties and get-togethers. CORYELL advised he has also known Appointee's wife since grade school and the entire family is of the highest character. CORYELL advised he would recommend Appointee for "President of the World" and stated nothing has ever come to his attention of a derogatory nature concerning Appointee.

DE 161-1355  
JRC/KAB - 1

### EDUCATION

The following investigation was conducted by  
SAs [ ] and [ ] at Ann Arbor,  
Michigan:

On October 17, 1973, [ ], Receptionist, Alumni Catalogue Office, University of Michigan (U of M), made available the file on GERALD R. FORD, JR., who was known to the records as GERALD FORD, born July 14, 1913, at Omaha, Nebraska, entered the university in September, 1931, and attended until June, 1935, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree. The file revealed FORD listed his parent as GERALD R. FORD, SR., 2163 Lake Drive, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The records further revealed FORD attended the U of M Law School during the summer session of 1937. The file revealed no unfavorable information regarding FORD while in attendance at the university. According to the records, FORD resided at 1912 Giddes Avenue, Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity House, from 1931 through 1935, and at 714 Hill Street during the summer of 1937. [ ] advised it is not possible to tell from the records who would recall FORD while he was at the university.

The Alumni files of the U of M, Ann Arbor, Michigan, for GERALD R. FORD, contain the following notations, taken from various newspaper clippings and other sources; not identified thereon; other than by date of notation:

1932: "Prep Star," Grand Rapids High School; All-State Center, Senior Year, High School. At U of M 1932, awarded Chicago Alumni Trophy for "the newcomer showing greatest improvement, best attitude, regularity in athletics, and promise for next year's Varsity;" 1931 through 1932, won numerals in basketball as well as football.

1945: Lieutenant GERALD FORD, class of 1935, Michigan, Assistant Military and Physical Training Officer, Staff of Rear Admiral O. B. HARDISON, United States Navy, Naval Air Station, Glenview, Illinois. Prior to service, had been a coach at Yale University and practiced law at

DE 161-1355  
JRC/KAB - 2

Grand Rapids, Michigan, with firm of Ford and Bachen.  
Appointed Lieutenant Junior Grade in United States Navy.

1950: Named one of Nation's ten "Young Men of the Year" by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce for leadership in fight to break up "political bossism" in his home district.

1960: Named to the Sports Illustrated Silver Anniversary All-American roster.

1962: Named Michigan's Most Valuable Athlete in 1934; following graduation received offers from the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions football teams. Worked his way through the U of M as a dishwasher at his fraternity, and subsequently earned part of his tuition as a Law student at Yale University working as Assistant Football coach and freshman boxing coach. Admitted to the Michigan Bar, 1941. In 1947, granted "Distinguished Service" award, Union Chamber of Commerce, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and in 1949, granted the "Distinguished Service" Award of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

1964: Member, National Warren Commission, investigating the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

1970: Granted the "Distinguished Congressional Service Award" by the American Political Science Association, 1961; Granted the "GEORGE WASHINGTON Award," 1966, by the American Good Government Society. Permanent Chairman, Republican National Committee, 1968.

As undergraduate at the U of M, member of Michigan's undefeated National Championship teams, 1932 and 1933. Received "Most Valuable Player Award," 1934.

Holds Honorary Degrees of Doctor of Laws from: Michigan State University; Albion College; Aquinas College; Spring Arbor College; Buena Vista College; Grove City College; Holds Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from Parsons College, and an Honorary Doctor of Public Administration from American International College.

DE 161-1355  
JRC/KAB - 3

Member, American Legion, Veteran of Foreign Wars,  
AMVETS. Thirty Third Degree Mason. Co-author, with  
JOHN R. STILES, of book, "Portrait of the Assassin."

1968: Board of Directors, Old Kent Bank and Trust  
Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

DE 161-1355  
JRC/sas -4

On October 17, 1973, [REDACTED] Registrar, Law School, University of Michigan, 302 Hutchins Hall, advised her records reveal GERALD FORD entered the Law School on June 21, 1937, and attended until September 1, 1937, taking eight hours and received a "B" grade. She stated FORD was admitted on credits from the University. She advised his undergraduate academic record was a 3.0 on a 4.0 basis, or a B average.

[REDACTED] stated her records indicate GERALD FORD legally changed his name on December 3, 1937, through the Kent County, Michigan, court, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from LESLIE KING to GERALD R. FORD, JR. She advised her records are favorable regarding FORD's attendance and she is unable to tell from the records who FORD took his law studies from at the University.



DE 161-1355  
HKM/clc - 1

EDUCATION

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Albion, Michigan:

ELIZABETH HILEMAN, Registrar, Albion College,  
advised that an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree was conferred  
upon GERALD R. FORD on June 7, 1965.

DE 101-1355  
TAC/CCP/2/7/71

SECURITY DEGREE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Spring Arbor, Michigan, on  
October 16, 1973:

[REDACTED], Registrar, Spring Arbor  
College, advised GRADUATE A. HUBBARD had never been a student at  
this college. He had been the speaker at commencement  
exercises for the college in 1965 and at that time had been  
presented an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree.

DE 161-1355  
TSR:jss/cld - 1

EDUCATION

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973,  
at East Lansing, Michigan:

[REDACTED] Senior Administrative Secretary  
to the Secretary of Board of Trustees, Michigan State  
University (MSU), advised that appointee received an  
Honorary Doctor of Law (LL.D.) degree from MSU on  
March 4, 1965.

DE 161-1355

BAR ASSOCIATIONS

CAP:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

[REDACTED], Executive Secretary,  
Grand Rapids Bar Association, 1010 Old Kent Building,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised the following:

[REDACTED] advised that GERALD R. FORD was  
admitted to the Grand Rapids Bar Association in 1941,  
and became an inactive member in 1968. She advised  
that an inactive member is one who pays dues but does  
not participate in the bar's activities. [REDACTED] further  
advised that she is the Grand Rapids Bar Association  
Historian and has reviewed all past grievances against  
Grand Rapids attorneys in her capacity as Historian.  
She advised that she has never seen a grievance against  
GERALD R. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
EGA:MOS - 1

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION,  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]:

On October 16, 1973, MARCEL PHILLIPS, President of this association, advised that the appointee is not an active current member of this association.

DE 161-1355  
EGA:MOS - 1

MICHIGAN STATE BAR GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE,  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA :

On October 16, 1973, RICHARD A. SENTER, Administrator, advised that the appointee is a member of the Michigan State Bar in good standing and that no grievance against the appointee has been raised with this committee.

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FEDERAL JUDGES



CAP:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

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The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

JOHN L. WIERINGO, 666 Old Kent Building,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that during 1957 he was  
President of the Grand Rapids Bar Association and  
personally knew GERALD R. FORD.

He further stated that he attended both grade  
school and the University of Michigan with FORD and  
found during this time that FORD's character, loyalty  
and morals were beyond reproach.

Though WIERINGO has never practiced law with  
FORD he had on occasion, when FORD was practicing law,  
consulted with FORD. During these times WIERINGO found  
that FORD was a trustworthy and most helpful individual.  
He further stated that FORD's ethics during this time  
were again beyond reproach.

WIERINGO further stated that he was also  
commissioner of the State Bar Association of Michigan  
and handled discipline matters against all attorneys  
within the state. He advised there are no disciplinary  
grievances against GERALD R. FORD.

JHE:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
on October 16, 1973:

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Mr. JACK E. FROST, Clerk, United States  
District Court, Western District of Michigan, Room 458,  
Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished  
the following information:

FROST advised that he does not personally  
know Mr. FORD well enough to comment about his character,  
loyalty, and associates and has heard nothing but  
outstanding comments on his ability to perform as an  
attorney. He advised that he believes that Mr. FORD  
will make an excellent Vice President.

Mr. FROST advised that even though his political  
beliefs lean toward the Democratic Party, he would  
vote for Mr. FORD if the election was to be held in the  
near future.

Mr. FROST advised that he has never known  
of any indiscretions on the part of Mr. FORD or known  
him to take advantage of his position in the Congress.

DE 161-1355  
RGJ:jas - 1

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FEDERAL JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] in Detroit, Michigan:

FRED KAEISS, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD for approximately 25 years or more. Mr. KAEISS advised that this was more of a business and social relationship and not a close relationship. Mr. KAEISS further stated that his association with Mr. FORD has been rather limited since he has been in Detroit.

Mr. KAEISS stated that FORD's character and morals are excellent. He said that FORD is a "swell guy" and is very straightforward. Mr. KAEISS also stated that Mr. FORD is an extremely loyal person and thinks very highly of the United States and its Government.

Mr. KAEISS stated that he is familiar with the acquaintances of Mr. FORD, but advised he could not remember their names at the moment.

Concerning the views held by Mr. FORD, Mr. KAEISS stated that he is not opposed to the Civil Rights Statute but does take an anti-bussing stand with respect to the ROTH decision. Mr. KAEISS stated that to his knowledge Mr. FORD holds no view that is contrary to law.

Mr. KAEISS stated that Mr. FORD is a very competent attorney and that he first met Mr. FORD when he was an attorney. Mr. KAEISS stated that Mr. FORD built a great reputation as an attorney in Grand Rapids and is in his opinion well qualified.

Mr. KAEISS stated that he could think of nothing that is derogatory concerning Mr. FORD's background and in his opinion GERALD FORD would be an excellent candidate for Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
RGJ:jas - 2

Mr. KAESS advised that if he has to be contacted in the future on this matter he could be reached at home at 971 North Oxford, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, telephone number

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DE 161-1355  
SJK/dlc - 1

FEDERAL JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] in the Detroit Division on  
October 16, 1973:

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LAWRENCE GUBOW, United States Federal Judge, Detroit, Michigan, home address 4397 Sunningdale Drive, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] advised that he has known of Mr. FORD for approximately 37 years. He stated that he has never had any contact with him socially or on business. Mr. GUBOW stated due to the fact he has never met or dealt with Mr. FORD, he could not express a personal opinion concerning Mr. FORD's character, morals, or loyalty. He advised, however, he has never heard of anyone questioning these characteristics, either publicly or privately. Mr. GUBOW advised the only knowledge he has concerning views held by Mr. FORD is what he reads in the newspapers and he would not be able to further comment on any of the other views held by Mr. FORD.

Mr. GUBOW stated he knows of no associates of Mr. FORD. Concerning Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney, Mr. GUBOW advised he would not be able to comment on this in view of the fact he knows little about Mr. FORD. Mr. GUBOW advised to the best of his knowledge, he knows of no derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD.

Mr. GUBOW stated he knows of nothing that would be detrimental to Mr. FORD's appointment as Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
SJK/jas -1

FEDERAL JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted in the Detroit Division by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

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CORNELIA G. KENNEDY, United States Federal Judge, Detroit, Michigan, home address 1153 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods, telephone number [REDACTED] advised that she has known Mr. FORD for approximately 13 years. Judge KENNEDY advised that this was a business and social relationship and not a close relationship.

Judge KENNEDY stated she has never had any personal contact with Mr. FORD; however, she has never heard anyone question his character, loyalty or morality either publicly or privately.

Concerning the views of Mr. FORD and his qualifications as an attorney, Judge KENNEDY advised she would not be able to comment in view of the fact she had no personal contact with him.

Judge KENNEDY advised she is familiar with a few acquaintances of Mr. FORD, names unrecalled at the present time, all being fine outstanding individuals.

Judge KENNEDY advised she could think of nothing derogatory concerning Mr. FORD and in her opinion he would be an excellent choice for Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
SJK/srd - 1

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FEDERAL JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted in the Detroit Division by SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

ROBERT P. DE MASCIO, United States Federal Judge, Detroit, Michigan, advised he has known Mr. FORD for approximately 18 years. Mr. DE MASCIO advised that the relationship was a business relationship and not a social or close one.

Mr. DE MASCIO stated he knows of no derogatory information regarding the character, morals, or loyalty of Mr. FORD.

Concerning the views held by Mr. FORD, Mr. DE MASCIO stated that he knows of no views held by Mr. FORD which are contrary to the law or in any way would embarrass the United States of America.

Mr. DE MASCIO stated he knows of no associates of Mr. FORD. Mr. DE MASCIO also stated he could furnish no information concerning Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney.

Mr. DE MASCIO advised he knows of nothing derogatory concerning Mr. FORD's background and in his opinion he would be an excellent choice for Vice President.

Mr. ROBERT P. DE MASCIO advised that if, in the future, he had to be contacted concerning this matter, he could be reached at home at 8162 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number [ ]

DE 161-1355  
RBP/srd - 1

FEDERAL JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Detroit, Michigan on October 16, 1973:

United States District Judge CHARLES W. JOINER, Eastern District of Michigan; residence 1345 Glendaloch Circle, Ann Arbor, Michigan; home telephone number [ ] business telephone number 226-7687, was contacted at his office, Room 251, Federal Building, and thereafter provided the following information regarding GERALD FORD, Vice Presidential appointee:

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Judge JOINER advised he first became acquainted with FORD while he, JOINER, was Associate Dean of the University of Michigan Law School and has known GERALD FORD for approximately 14 years. Judge JOINER described his acquaintance with Mr. FORD as being "very modest" in Republican politics. Judge JOINER was of the opinion Mr. FORD is of excellent character, open, candid, and forthright. Judge JOINER stated he knows of nothing adverse regarding FORD's morals, and advised he is not familiar with GERALD FORD's position on civil rights.

Judge JOINER stated that there is no question about Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States and further advised that FORD, in his judgement, is a "complete lawyer". Judge JOINER further stated that although he has not recently been acquainted with Mr. FORD, either business wise or socially, he knows of no bad associates of FORD, but really does not know anyone with whom FORD has ever been closely associated with other than [ ], an attorney at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Judge JOINER considers [ ] to be an outstanding individual.

Judge JOINER concluded by stating that GERALD FORD is a good public servant whom he thinks well of and whom he recommends for a high position of trust in government.



DE 161-1355  
RBP/srd - 1

FEDERAL JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Detroit, Michigan on October 16, 1973:

Judge THOMAS P. THORNTON, United States District Judge, Eastern District of Michigan; residence 164 Ridgemont Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan; home telephone number [ ] business telephone number 313-226-6010, was contacted at his office, Room 867, Federal Building, and thereafter provided the following information regarding GERALD R. FORD, Vice Presidential appointee:

Judge THORNTON advised he is not acquainted with GERALD FORD nor cannot recall having ever met Mr. FORD. Judge THORNTON therefore advised he could not testify as to Mr. FORD's character, morals, loyalty and civil rights views. Judge THORNTON stated that to the best of his knowledge, GERALD FORD is an excellent selection as a Vice President.

Judge THORNTON concluded by stating that from his public knowledge of GERALD FORD, he highly recommends Mr. FORD for a high position of trust and confidence in the United States Government.

DE 161-1355  
DFC/KAB:cel - 1

On October 16, 1973, the following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] in Flint, Michigan:

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

7-18  
STEPHEN J. ROTH, United States District Judge, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, 600 Church Street, Flint, Michigan, advised that he only knows GERALD FORD through press coverage and has not had business or social contact with him, inasmuch as GERALD FORD is a member of the opposite party, the Republican Party, while he (ROTH) is a Democrat. He knows of no derogatory information concerning GERALD FORD's character, honesty, loyalty, or qualifications for the position of Vice-President of the United States. He does not know FORD's associates or organizations of which he is a member, except that he is a member of the Republican Party.

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DE 161-1355  
WKM/cjn - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16,  
1973:

46  
United States Magistrate STEPHEN W. KARR advised  
that he came to Grand Rapids in 1947 and has known Appointee  
"remotely" since 1948. KARR emphasized he does not know  
Appointee personally. KARR stated he knows or has heard  
nothing which would prohibit him from recommending Appointee  
to a high office to which he has been appointed.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

DE 161-1355  
LJM:nar - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

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JOHN P. MILANOWSKI, United States Attorney, Western District of Michigan, Grand Rapids, home address 18 Worchester, Northeast Grand Rapids, telephone [redacted] was contacted at the Grand Rapids Federal Building, 544 Federal Building. Mr. MILANOWSKI has known FORD all his life and socially since 1948 until the present. MILANOWSKI was FORD's first Administrative Assistant when he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1949. MILANOWSKI worked for FORD in this capacity until the summer or fall of 1955. MILANOWSKI had gone to work for FORD in Washington, D.C., after graduating from law school in that city.

In 1955, MILANOWSKI returned to Michigan to practice law, however, acted as a field representative for FORD in Grand Rapids until 1969. During this period MILANOWSKI was employed on a part-time basis by FORD with a gradual decreasing salary from 1955 through 1969, the approximate salary in 1969 being \$100.00 per month.

MILANOWSKI stated he has known FORD intimately since 1948 and considers his character as outstanding and regards him as having a very high degree of integrity. He considers FORD to have the highest moral character and considers him an excellent family man with four children. FORD was a former Eagle Scout and has carried the traits of an Eagle Scout throughout his life. FORD drinks very moderately and maintains an excellent physical condition.

MILANOWSKI stated that FORD was an advocate of civil rights and firmly believed that all men were created equal without regard to race or creed.

MILANOWSKI considered FORD a loyal American and a very competent and humble individual. He has observed FORD function for over 20 years and respects the man as a hard worker. He would provide the highest recommendation possible for FORD in any capacity.

DE 161-1355  
RJG:jas - 1

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] in Detroit, Michigan:

RALPH B. GUY, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, advised that he never had any personal acquaintance with Mr. GERALD R. FORD, but stated that within the party structure he has never heard anyone question Mr. FORD's character, loyalty or morals either publicly or privately.

Mr. GUY advised that he only knows of one associate of Mr. GERALD R. FORD and it is JOHN P. MILANOWSKI, United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. GUY advised that Mr. MILANOWSKI was once an aide to Mr. FORD.

Mr. GUY stated that the only knowledge he has concerning the views held by Mr. FORD is what he reads in the papers. He further stated he would not be able to comment further on any of the other views held by Mr. FORD.

On Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney, Mr. GUY stated that he has never really thought of Mr. FORD as an attorney but rather as a United States Representative. Based on Mr. FORD's record over the past 25 years, Mr. GUY believes he is well qualified.

Mr. GUY stated that based on his knowledge of Mr. FORD, he could not think of any derogatory information and would highly recommend him for the position of Vice President.

STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIARY

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DL 161-1355  
TVF/rlg - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

WILFRED A. WARD, District Judge, 61st District Court, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he is a life long resident of Grand Rapids and is socially and politically acquainted with GERALD R. FORD. He advised he is a Democrat and a political opponent of FORDs. He advised that he first met FORD in 1948, at which time he participated in a campaign to unseat the incumbent BARTHA WERNER. He advised that he supported FORD in this election due to the fact that he and a group of Democrats felt that WERNER did not represent his constituency. He advised that since that time he has not politically supported FORD.

He advised that FORD has an outstanding reputation in the community and as far as he is concerned, his character is unimpeachable. He described FORD as an honest and forthright man who could well handle the job of Vice President of the United States. He advised that he has never heard any derogatory information concerning FORD or any members of the FORD family.

He advised that as a Democrat he did not support FORD politically, but in 1958 he supported RICHARD WOODRUFF in a campaign against FORD and to the best of his knowledge, this was a "clean" campaign. He advised that FORD has never indulged in any type political corruption and has always run honest political campaigns.

He again advised that although he differed politically with FORD he could not think of any reason why FORD would not make an excellent Vice President of the United States.



DL 151-1355

WFO/rly - 1

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b7c

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1972:

Honorable GEORGE VICTOR BOUCHER, Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Room 456, Hall of Justice Building, Grand Rapids, advised that he first became associated with GERALD FORD in 1948 when he ran for the U.S. Congress for the first time. BOUCHER stated he had just graduated from South High School, Grand Rapids, and was the Chairman of the Youth Committee for the election of FORD.

He stated that he has been active in the Michigan Republican Party since that time, explaining that in 1965 through 1966 he served as Chairman of the Kent County Michigan Republican Party and in 1967 through 1968 he served as Chairman of the 5th Congressional District of the Republican Party.

BOUCHER stated that during his association with FORD he has respected the man for his endurance and work and his high degree of honesty and integrity.

He stated that based upon FORD's many years in the Congress he is extremely capable and able to serve in the position of Vice President. He stated he knows FORD to be a mature, cool headed, hardworking individual who has earned an excellent reputation in the State of Michigan as a representative of the people in this state. He stated that he knows of absolutely no derogatory information concerning FORD or any member of his immediate family and knows of no activities in his campaigning during the years which would cause embarrassment to the President or to the country.

He stated that FORD definitely is not prejudiced or big towards the blacks or any other minority group and has a reputation of being a very fair man. He stated that he personally feels that President NIXON could not have made a better choice in his selection of FORD for the Vice President of the United States.

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DE 161-1355  
ATP/rle - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

STANLEY A. MOURMITHIER, 17th Judicial Circuit Court Clerk, Second Floor, Hall of Justice Building, Grand Rapids, advised that he has known GERALD FORD since 1929 when they both were in the South High School, Grand Rapids.

He stated that he was two years ahead of FORD in high school and considered FORD to be a close personal friend during those days.

MOURMITHIER stated he graduated from South High School in 1929 and that FORD graduated in 1931.

He stated that FORD practiced law in Grand Rapids with FREDERICK W. BUCHAN, who still resides in Grand Rapids, and has a law office at 740 Old Kent Building in downtown Grand Rapids.

MOURMITHIER stated that since FORD left Grand Rapids and went to Washington, D.C., he naturally has been unable to see him as often as he did in the past, but does attempt to see FORD on each of his visits back to Grand Rapids.

He stated that he has always respected FORD, even from their high school days, as he considers him to be an honest, dependable, hard working individual, whose honesty and integrity are of the highest caliber.

He stated that he has known FORD to resign or remove himself from various positions in the past whenever a question of conflict of interest or any allegations concerning the legality of that position was in question.

He stated that he could not recall the positions or details except he recalls that at one time FORD was appointed to the Board of the Old Kent Bank in Grand Rapids and resigned shortly thereafter inasmuch as a conflict of interest question was raised. He stated that this would serve to illustrate the type of individual FORD is in his opinion.

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D: 161-1355  
WSS/rlg - 2

He stated he knows of no derogatory information concerning FORD or any member of his immediate family. He stated that during all of FORD's political career he has never heard anyone question his integrity, loyalty, morals or general character.

He stated that, in his opinion, President NIXON could not have made a wiser choice in his selection of FORD as his nominee for Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355

LAB:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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ROMAN SNOW, Kent County Circuit Court Judge, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and provided the following information:

He advised that he has known GERALD FORD for twenty-two years and thinks he is a fine outstanding representative and is eminently well qualified both politically and socially for the position of Vice President. He stated in all the years of association with FORD, he has never heard any comments of a derogatory nature and has never known FORD to be involved in any type scandal, no matter how slight. He advised FORD takes his work seriously and handles it with enthusiasm and wisdom.

He advised that FORD's personal life is also untouched by scandal and his drinking and social habits are above criticism.

DE 161-1355

LAB:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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JOHN VANDERWAL, Kent County Circuit Court Judge, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and provided the following information:

VANDERWAL advised he has known GERALD FORD since he was in high school and has always admired and respected him as a man and as a politician.

VANDERWAL advised when FORD first ran for office in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he supported BARNEY YOUNGMAN, his opponent, but only because YOUNGMAN was a long-time friend and former associate. He stated that FORD has been an excellent Congressman and both Democrats and Republicans in the area think of him as an honest and forthright man with an outstanding record.

He advised that he has heard of no derogatory information concerning FORD's life style, character, or political life.

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97-161-1355  
JMS/rlg - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Honorable WENDALL A. MILES, Judge, 20th Judicial Circuit Court of Ottawa and Allegan Counties, Michigan, was contacted at his Grand Haven, Michigan, Office.

MILES advised that he first met FORD in 1948 and has been a friend of FORD's since that time.

MILES advised that he served as the United States Attorney in Grand Rapids during the period of 1953 through 1960.

He stated that based on his personal knowledge and association with GERALD FORD, he considers FORD to have a "perfect" character. He stated that the man is unquestionable, one of the most honest, dependable, hardworking and straight forward individuals that he knows. He stated that FORD is extremely loyal to this country and to the Republican party and is known by his constituents as one of the most honest and reliable politicians in Federal Government.

He stated that FORD, without a doubt, is extremely competent to serve as a Vice President and, in his opinion, is exceptionally qualified for this position based upon his many years in Congress.

MILES stated that he would highly recommend FORD for the position of Vice President as he believes FORD will be an excellent Vice President and will do a lot of good for the country in that capacity.

DE 161-1355  
RFO/dlc - 1

MEMBERS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT F. O'NEILL at Detroit, Michigan on October 16, 1973.

Justice CHARLES L. LEVIN advised that he does not  
know GERALD FORD and has never met him. Justice LEVIN did  
state that he has never heard anything derogatory concerning  
Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
RFO/dlc - 1

MEMBERS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT F. O'NEILL at Detroit, Michigan on October 16, 1973.

THOMAS M. KAVANAGH, Chief Justice, advised that he has known GERALD FORD for approximately 30 years. Their association has been both business and social. Justice KAVANAGH stated that Mr. FORD is an extremely competent person who is highly regarded in political circles. He has an excellent reputation and is completely honest and loyal. He is of unquestioned integrity. His record of 25 years in Congress as a Representative of the State of Michigan has been excellent. Justice KAVANAGH said Mr. FORD would make an excellent Vice-President.



DE 161-1355  
JKG/dlc - 1

MICHIGAN STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]

On October 16, 1973, the Honorable Judge JOHN B. SWAINSON, Michigan Supreme Court Justice, advised that he was first introduced to Vice-Presidential nominee GERALD R. FORD in 1959 at a political function. Judge SWAINSON further stated the only other personal contact he had with Mr. FORD was in the summer of 1972, at Grand Valley College, when they were awarded honorary Doctorate of Law Degrees.

He stated Mr. FORD maintains a good reputation in Michigan and he knows of no derogatory information concerning his qualifications, reputation, or morals.

DE 161-1355  
RBP/pjf - 1

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

G. MENNEN WILLIAMS, Justice of the Supreme Court, State of Michigan, and former Governor of Michigan, 25 Tonnancour Place, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, phone number [redacted] was contacted at his office, 1425 Lafayette Building, Detroit, Michigan, business phone (313) 256-2820, and thereafter provided the following information regarding GERALD R. FORD, Vice-President appointee.

Judge WILLIAMS advised that he first met GERALD FORD approximately 25 years ago when he and FORD "bumped heads politically" when Mr. FORD was running for the United States Congress in the Fifth District of Michigan. Since their initial meeting, Judge WILLIAMS advised that his acquaintance with Mr. FORD is at best casual. Judge WILLIAMS stated that he has on occasion met GERALD FORD at the Michigan Club in Washington, D.C., at various "apple" and "peach" festivals in Michigan and probably at other public assemblies.

Judge WILLIAMS stated that he has no in depth knowledge of Mr. FORD, but considers FORD to be personable, "a friendly man". Judge WILLIAMS advised that because of his very remote relationship with Mr. FORD, he, WILLIAMS, could not comment regarding FORD's character, morals, associates, civil rights views, other views or qualifications as an attorney. Judge WILLIAMS did state that with regard to FORD's patriotism, he could give him a "clean bill of health".

Judge WILLIAMS further stated that he knows of nothing derogatory about GERALD FORD, and that FORD's general reputation "seems to be good". WILLIAMS further stated that he has no knowledge as to FORD's past campaign financing.

G. MENNEN WILLIAMS concluded by stating that, "Considering the current administration, the appointment is about as reasonable, as favorable, as people can expect."

DE 161-1355  
JKG/pjf - 1

MICHIGAN STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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On October 16, 1973, the Honorable Judge THOMAS E. BRENNAN, Michigan State Supreme Court Justice, advised that he has never had occasion to meet Vice-President Nominee GERALD R. FORD. Justice BRENNAN further stated that his political activities have been primarily confined to a local level in the Detroit, Michigan, vicinity and as such has had no personal relationship with Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
MCN/mam - 1

JUDGE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Judge T. JOHN LESINSKI, Chief Judge, Michigan Supreme Court, 900 First Federal Building, telephone number 256-2788, home address 60 Willow Tree Place, Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED] advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for approximately 15 to 16 years, but not socially. He first met Mr. FORD during the redistricting of Michigan and stated he was very impressed with the manner in which Mr. FORD conducted himself since it was entirely different from the "ward healer" attitude many of his associates in Congress exhibited. Most of Judge LESINSKI's contacts were made when the Judge was a member of the Michigan Congress and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Michigan and all were political in nature. As a result of these contacts, he has an extremely high regard for Mr. FORD both professionally and personally. Mr. FORD is a good family man and extremely straightforward in his dealings with others. He has never heard anything which would reflect unfavorably upon his character, morals, associates or loyalty. He was unable to comment on his civil rights viewpoint and was totally incapable of determining his qualifications as an attorney.

The only thing he knows of any financial background is the recent publicity concerning about \$11,000.00 in campaign funds. Judge LESINSKI had no personal knowledge of these funds but believes that Mr. FORD did pass this money along to other candidates. The basis of this belief is his high regard for the truthfulness of Mr. FORD. He stated he had no personal knowledge of any of these transactions.

He unhesitatingly recommended Mr. FORD very highly for the office of the Vice President of the United States and felt that he is the best qualified under the circumstances.

DE 161-1355  
JKG/pjf - 1

MICHIGAN STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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On October 16, 1973, the Honorable Judge THOMAS GILES KAVANAUGH, Michigan State Supreme Court Justice, advised that he was never afforded the opportunity of being introduced to Vice-President Nominee GERALD R. FORD. He stated that Mr. FORD is highly thought of in the community and he is unaware of any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
MCN/env - 1

MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], at Detroit, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

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Judge VINCENT J. BRENNAN, Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals, 900 First Federal Building, telephone number 256-2797, home address 716 Balfour, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED] advised he has no personal acquaintanceship with GERALD R. FORD and only knows Mr. FORD to speak to him; however, he has never heard anything derogatory about Mr. FORD and cannot really furnish any information about him. Judge BRENNAN advised he was formerly a Records Court Judge in Detroit and the talk by the Judges and attorneys was always favorable as far as Mr. FORD was concerned.

He had no knowledge at all about the financial background of Mr. FORD and has just recently read in the newspaper an article about certain campaign funds Mr. FORD received. Judge BRENNAN could not furnish any details of information concerning this.

Based upon his knowledge of Mr. FORD through reputation only, he would not hesitate to recommend Mr. FORD for the office of the Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
SJK/pjf/jbm - 1

MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS

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The following investigation was conducted in the Detroit Division by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

ROBERT J. DANHOF, Judge, Court of Appeals, State of Michigan, advised that he has known Mr. FORD for approximately 20 years. He stated the relationship was of a business nature and not a close relationship.

He advised that due to the nature of his contact with Mr. GERALD FORD he would not be able to comment on Mr. FORD's character, morals, or loyalty; however, everything he has heard concerning these qualities was very good. He stated he has heard nothing of a derogatory nature concerning Mr. FORD.

Judge DANHOF advised he could furnish no names of associates of Mr. FORD; however, to the best of his knowledge, they were all fine, outstanding individuals.

Concerning Mr. FORD's views, Judge DANHOF advised he has no personal knowledge of them, only those which have been related in the newspaper.

Judge DANHOF stated he could furnish no information regarding Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney, due to the fact he (Judge DANHOF) has never had an opportunity to judge him.

Judge DANHOF advised to the best of his knowledge he knows of no information of a derogatory nature concerning Mr. FORD and he feels Mr. FORD is an excellent choice for Vice-President of the United States.

Judge DANHOF advised in the event he had to be recontacted concerning this matter, he could be contacted at his home at 710 Pebblebrook Lane, East Lansing, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

DE 101-1355  
MCN/cmv - 1

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MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Detroit, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

Judge GEORGE N. BASHARA, JR., Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals, 900 First Federal Building, telephone number 256-2791, home address 662 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED] advised he has known GERALD R. FORD personally for about 15 years. Judge BASHARA formerly lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and his uncle is a neighbor of Mr. FORD, this being the way by which he met Mr. FORD. He does not know Mr. FORD socially but thinks very highly of him and knows that he has an excellent reputation with no unfavorable reputation pertaining to his character, morals, loyalty or associates. Mr. FORD is a very good family man and an extremely hard worker.

He is unable to comment as to the qualifications of Mr. FORD as an attorney and knows nothing of his views on civil rights other than Mr. FORD's pronouncements in various speeches and conventions. He has attended numerous conventions in Michigan with Mr. FORD and he always carried himself with dignity and has never seen him in any of the caucus rooms late at night as some of the other delegates were prone to do. He had no knowledge of Mr. FORD's financial background and knew none of his campaign contributors. Judge BASHARA never contributed to Mr. FORD's campaign and Mr. FORD never made funds available for any campaigns of Judge BASHARA.

He would not hesitate to recommend Mr. FORD for the office of the Vice President of the United States and felt that he would do nothing to bring discredit to the United States.



DE 161-1355  
MCN/dlc - 1

MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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Judge S. JEROME BRONSON, Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals, 900 First Federal Building, Detroit, telephone number 256-2794, home address 25435 Canterbury, Franklin, Michigan, advised that he has had no previous contact with GERALD R. FORD since his political background is that of the Democratic Party and he comes from a different geographical area than Mr. FORD. However, he has not heard anything derogatory in any way concerning Mr. FORD. The "political gossip" has always been extremely favorable to Mr. FORD.

Based upon the reputation enjoyed by Mr. FORD, Judge BRONSON would not hesitate to recommend him for the office of the Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
MCN/dlc - 1

MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on  
October 16, 1973:

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Judge JOHN H. GILLIS, Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals, 900 First Federal Building, telephone number 256-2785, home address 9 Colonial Road, Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for about ten years, primarily through contacts in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Judge GILLIS sometimes holds court. Judge GILLIS knew of nothing derogatory concerning his loyalty, character, morals or associates. He is conservative and honest and a hard worker. He attended the Republican National Convention in Miami, Florida, and had occasion to be with Mr. FORD at several functions at that time. He advised Mr. FORD always carried himself with dignity, doing nothing which would reflect unfavorably on himself. He was unable to comment on his qualifications as an attorney and had no information whatsoever as to his financial background or source of campaign funds.

Judge GILLIS did not hesitate to recommend Mr. FORD for the office of the Vice-President of the United States.

WAYNE COUNTY AND DETROIT JUDICIARY

DE 161-1355  
RSF:jfd - 1

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Wayne County Circuit Court Judge

The following investigation was conducted at Detroit, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

GEORGE E. BOWLES, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was interviewed at the City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] and supplied the following information:

Mr. BOWLES stated that he does not know GERALD FORD personally, although he does know who he is. He stated that he has had no dealings with Mr. FORD or his associates, but has heard "nothing but praise for him from people who do know him".

DE 161-1355

RSF:kc - 1

b6  
b7c

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge

The following investigation was conducted at  
Detroit, Michigan, on October 16, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

JAMES CANHAM, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge,  
was interviewed at the City-County Building, Detroit, Michigan,  
by SA [REDACTED] and supplied the following information.

Judge CANHAM stated that he has had no contact  
whatsoever with GERALD FORD and does not know him or any  
of his associates.

DE 161-1355

RSF:kc - 1

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge

The following investigation was conducted at  
Detroit, Michigan, on October 16, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

JOHN D. O'HAIR, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge,  
was interviewed at the City-County Building, Detroit, Michigan,  
by SA [REDACTED] and supplied the following information.

Judge O'HAIR stated that he does not know Mr. FORD  
personally, but has heard nothing but good things about him,  
concerning his character and qualifications. Judge O'HAIR  
stated that he has heard nothing derogatory concerning  
GERALD FORD.

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DE 161-1855  
WEN/cjp - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] at Detroit, Michigan:

The Honorable JOHN M. WISE, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was located in Room 1519 of the City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5195, and provided the following information:

Judge WISE advised that he is not acquainted with GERALD R. FORD, the individual who is a representative for the State of Michigan from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Judge WISE advised his only knowledge of FORD is that he is a 33rd Degree Mason, and that which he obtains from reading, and that it would be only a conjecture on his part for him to say that FORD would be a highly recommended individual. Judge WISE based this on the fact that he himself is a 33rd Degree Mason, and each 33rd Degree Mason who he knows has been a remarkable, upright, honest individual, such as the late President TRUMAN, and the late J. EDGAR HOOVER. Judge WISE advised he at no time has heard any information of a derogatory nature in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

Judge WISE could provide no further information in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
TW/lcc - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES, MICHIGAN

On October 16, 1973, Judge BLAIR MOODY, JR.,  
Wayne County Circuit, Detroit, Michigan, advised SA  
[redacted] that he had no information concerning  
Congressman GERALD R. FORD's loyalty, reputation,  
character, or associates. Judge MOODY had never met  
FORD or dealt with him on a professional basis. His  
only source of information concerning Congressman FORD  
has been the news media, and he had no derogatory  
information. He knew of no reason why Congressman FORD  
should not be approved by Congress for the position of  
Vice President.

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DE 161-1355  
JDC/dlc - 1

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WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted on  
October 16, 1973, by SA [ ] at Detroit, Michigan:

The Honorable RICHARD M. MAHER, Wayne County  
Circuit Court Judge, was located in Room 1821, City County  
Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5192,  
and provided the following information:

Judge MAHER advised that he has met GERALD R. FORD,  
Vice-Presidential Appointee, on four social occasions.  
Judge MAHER advised that his only knowledge of FORD is that  
which he reads in the news. Judge MAHER advised that he has  
never heard any derogatory information concerning GERALD  
FORD.

Judge MAHER stated that he could provide no  
information in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
RAG/lim - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

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b7C

NEAL FITZGERALD, City County Building, was contacted on October 16, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]. Judge FITZGERALD advised that he had no personal knowledge of GERALD R. FORD but had read an article in the "Detroit Free Press," a major newspaper published daily in Detroit, that he considered derogatory in nature. Judge FITZGERALD advised that the article was in the edition of October 14, 1973, and contained excerpts from a book entitled "Washington Payoff." This was the only information of a derogatory nature that Judge FITZGERALD was aware of.

DE 161-1355  
TJL/pjf - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

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The following investigation was conducted at Detroit, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

VICTOR J. BAUM, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was interviewed at the City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] and furnished the following information regarding Mr. GERALD FORD, united States Vice-Presidential designee.

Judge BAUM stated that he has never met Mr. FORD personally nor has he had any dealings with his associates or members of his Congressional Staff. He knows Mr. FORD only by reputation which is considered by him to be "above reproach".

DE 161-1355  
TJL/pjf - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted at Detroit, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

THEODORE R. BOHM, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was interviewed at the City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] and furnished the following information regarding Mr. GERALD FORD, United States Vice-Presidential designee.

Mr. BOHM stated he has never met Mr. FORD personally nor has he had any dealings with his associates or members of his Congressional Staff.

DE 161-1355  
GOB/KAB - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

On October 16, 1973, the following investigation was conducted by SA [ ] at Detroit, Michigan:

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JOSEPH A. MOYNIHAN, JR., Circuit Judge, 3rd Judicial District of Michigan, 19th Floor, City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, advised he first met GERALD FORD while attending law school at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the fall of 1937. Judge MOYNIHAN said after World War II, he met GERALD FORD more frequently on a professional basis as they were both active in Republican politics. Judge MOYNIHAN pointed out that this was not a close relationship, but one which grew out of various political functions.

Judge MOYNIHAN stated he personally could not think of anything which would reflect unfavorably on GERALD FORD'S associations, morals, character, loyalty, civil rights views, or financial background. He did indicate, however, that he had learned through a newspaper account that a charge had been leveled against FORD that his campaign organization had reportedly received \$11,500.00 in contributions from bankers and stockbrokers which was not reflected in his records. Judge MOYNIHAN stated he believed FORD had adequately explained this charge to the media by indicating he had not kept this money and had forwarded it to the Republican National Committee. Judge MOYNIHAN also stated he had heard through the media that FORD had helped G. GORDON LIDDY get his first job in Washington, D. C.

Judge MOYNIHAN said he was in no position to know about GERALD FORD'S capability as an attorney, but felt FORD was qualified to assume the duties of Vice President. Judge MOYNIHAN stated he would certainly recommend FORD for this position by virtue of his experience and the way he had conducted himself in the past.

DE 161-1355  
TJL/pjf - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted at Detroit, Michigan on October 16, 1973:

CHARLES KAUFMAN, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was interviewed at the City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] and furnished the following information regarding Mr. GERALD FORD, United States Vice-Presidential designee.

Mr. KAUFMAN stated he has never met Mr. FORD personally nor has he had any dealings with his associates or members of his Congressional Staff.

DE 161-1355  
TJL/pjf - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted at Detroit, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

HARRY J. DINGEMAN, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was interviewed at the old City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] and furnished the following information regarding Mr. GERALD FORD, United States Vice-Presidential designee.

Mr. DINGEMAN stated he does not know Mr. FORD personally nor has he had any dealings with his associates or members of his Congressional Staff.

DE 161-1355  
RGP:lrc 1

b6  
b7c

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

The following represents results of interview conducted on October 16, 1973, concerning Vice President designate GERALD FORD by Special Agent [REDACTED]

JAMES FARMER, Wayne County Circuit Court, City-County Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5246, advised that he is not very familiar with Representative FORD, but has never heard any derogatory information concerning him. Judge FARMER stated that it is apparent that Representative FORD is a very capable individual and is held in high esteem by numerous individuals.

Concerning Representative FORD's views concerning civil rights, Judge FARMER stated that here again he has never heard any derogatory information. Judge FARMER stated that Representative FORD has never been considered a leader in the civil rights movement but never a detriment to it either.

Judge FARMER stated Representative FORD appears to be an individual with strong character, loyalty and he would recommend him highly for Vice President of the United States.



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DE 161-1255  
Jmd:dkd - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

Judge JOSEPH G. RASHID, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was interviewed in his chambers, Suite 1401, City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973, by Special Agent [REDACTED].

Judge RASHID advised that he is not personally acquainted with Congressman GERALD FORD, to his knowledge has never met Mr. FORD, and only knows him by reputation.

He stated it is his understanding that Mr. FORD has a background of considerable wealth and that Mr. FORD himself, has spent much of his own money in political campaigns.

He stated that he has never heard anything which would reflect unfavorably on Mr. FORD's character, reputation, morals, qualifications as an attorney, or loyalty to the United States. He was specific in stating that in all of his years as a prosecutor and judge in Wayne County, Michigan, he has never heard anything which would reflect unfavorably on Mr. FORD's financial background. He further stated that he has never heard anything unfavorable concerning Mr. FORD's civil rights position.

Judge RASHID stated that he knows of no reason why Mr. FORD is not qualified for and should not be the Vice President of the United States, and that he knows of no reason why he should not be recommended for such a position.

DE 161-1355  
WPW:jas - 1

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WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] at Detroit, Michigan:

The Honorable JAMES L. RYAN, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was located in Room 1619 of the City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5240, and provided the following information:

Judge RYAN advised that he is not acquainted with GERALD R. FORD, the individual who is a representative for the State of Michigan from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Judge RYAN advised that his only knowledge of FORD is that which he reads in the newspapers. Judge RYAN advised he at no time has heard any information of a derogatory nature in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

Judge RYAN could provide no further information in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
WPW:jas - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SA [ ] at Detroit, Michigan:

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The Honorable NATHAN KAUFMAN, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was located in Room 1501 of the City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5210, and provided the following information:

Judge KAUFMAN advised that he is not acquainted with GERALD R. FORD, the individual who is a representative for the State of Michigan from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Judge KAUFMAN advised that his only knowledge of FORD is that which he reads in the newspapers. Judge KAUFMAN advised he at no time has heard any information of a derogatory nature in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

Judge KAUFMAN could provide no further information in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
JHR/KAB - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

On October 16, 1973, SA [ ] of the Detroit Office of the FBI telephonically contacted the Office of Wayne County Circuit Court Judge THOMAS J. FOLEY, Room 1901, City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5201, to make an appointment to interview Judge FOLEY. [ ] the Judge's Clerk, advised that the Judge will be on vacation until October 29, 1973. He stated he would contact Judge FOLEY to make arrangements for an interview.

On the same date, Judge FOLEY telephonically contacted SA [ ] and advised that he is not personally acquainted with GERALD R. FORD. He knows him only by reputation, and knows nothing of a derogatory nature about him. Judge FOLEY volunteered that he believes Mr. FORD to be a trustworthy and loyal individual, who is qualified to be Vice-President. Judge FOLEY further advised that he resides at 11785 Priscilla Lane, Plymouth, Michigan, and has telephone number GL3-7235.

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DE 161-1355  
WPW:jms - 1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted on October 16, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] at Detroit, Michigan:

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The Honorable JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, was located in Room 1611 of the City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5231, and provided the following information:

Judge SULLIVAN advised that he is not acquainted with GERALD R. FORD, the individual who is a representative for the State of Michigan from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Judge SULLIVAN advised that his only knowledge of FORD is that which he reads in the newspapers. Judge SULLIVAN advised he at no time has heard any information of a derogatory nature in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

Judge SULLIVAN could provide no further information in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
RTG/pjf:clc ~ 1

WAYNE COUNTY JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 16, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

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HORACE W. GILMORE, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge, City-County Building, advised that he met Vice-Presidential nominee GERALD FORD four or five years ago. He stated that he merely shook hands with FORD at some type of meeting and has had no further contact with FORD since that time. He stated that he has no personal knowledge of FORD's ability, character or morals, but that he has never heard anything bad concerning him.

DE 161-1355  
AGB/kpd -1

WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

BENJAMIN D. BURDICK, Circuit Court Judge, Wayne County, Michigan, furnished the following information to SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973:

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Judge BURDICK, who has been a Circuit Judge since 1963, advised that he was Chairman of the 15th Congressional District of the Republican Party from 1936 to 1956. He advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD personally and politically but not socially for the past 25 years. He advised that he has never had any contact with him professionally as an attorney and knows nothing concerning his professional qualifications. He advised that as to Mr. FORD's character, he has always been a man of the highest integrity, honest, straightforward and above reproach. He stated Mr. FORD has never said one thing to him over the past 25 years, when meaning to say another thing. He stated he was very straightforward. He stated FORD's reputation throughout the state was excellent and as far back as he can recall, Mr. FORD was always connected with organizations which were for good government. He stated that he believed back in the 1940's, although he was not positive, that Mr. FORD was involved in clean government activities which resulted in the unseating of Mr. MC KAY, the then political boss of the State of Michigan. As to Mr. FORD's loyalty, he stated that it was absolute and was above question. He stated that he did not believe Mr. FORD would be blindly loyal to any cause that was wrong.

He advised he did not know FORD's close associates with the exception of Senator GRIFFIN and Governor MILLIKEN. He advised that as to FORD's civil rights views, that they were adequate. He stated his civil rights views were conservative but not reactionary and that he had never heard of any attack on his civil rights record, either in the press or privately. He advised that he knew of absolutely nothing derogatory concerning GERALD FORD's character, loyalty, associates, or morals. He advised he knew nothing of his financial background. He advised he would recommend GERALD R. FORD unhesitatingly for any high position of trust in the Government.

DE 161-1355  
WJC/cfc - 1

WAYNE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

ERNEST C. BOEHM, Judge of Probate, Wayne County, Michigan, was contacted on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] [REDACTED], at his office located in Room 1300, City County Building, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5668, where he provided the following information:

He has never met GERALD FORD and has no personal knowledge of the man. BOEHM advised that FORD "seems to be quite competent;" however, he emphasized that his opinion was based solely on what he has read about FORD in the newspapers. BOEHM was unwilling to further characterize FORD. He advised that he knew nothing derogatory about FORD.

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DE 161-1355  
WJC/dlc - 1

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WAYNE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

JOSEPH J. PERNICK, Judge of Probate, Wayne County, Michigan, was interviewed on October 16, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] at his office located in Room 1399, City County Building, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, telephone 224-5676, where he provided the following information:

(v) He has never met GERALD FORD and has no personal knowledge of the man. His opinion is based solely on what he has heard and read about FORD. He characterized FORD as an apparent "hard driving and dedicated" congressman. While PERNICK has never heard anything derogatory about FORD, he does recall having read "The Washington Payoff" by ROBERT N. WINTER-BERGER, wherein the author, a lobbyist, recounted his experiences in Washington and he alluded to the fact that he had worked out of Congressman FORD's office. PERNICK recalls having considered this information to be somewhat adverse to FORD; however, PERNICK was quick to point out that he had no way of knowing whether this relationship did exist or whether it was, in fact, unethical.

DE 161-1355  
WJC/cfc - 1

WAYNE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

IRA G. KAUFMAN, Judge of Probate, Wayne County, Michigan, was interviewed on October 16, 1973, by SA [redacted] at his office located in Room 1219, City County Building, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5672, where he provided the following information:

He once met GERALD FORD approximately two years ago at a function where FORD was the principal speaker; however, he is not personally acquainted with the man. KAUFMAN advised that his opinion of FORD was based on his observations of the man and on FORD's exceptional record as a congressman. He felt that President NIXON's nomination of FORD for Vice President was an excellent one because of FORD's obvious abilities and because the Congress and the country will quickly accept him. KAUFMAN observed that FORD "seems to be a very clear asset to the country". KAUFMAN also observed that while he is occasionally privy to information concerning political personalities, information generally not available to the public, he has never heard any rumors concerning FORD which were abusive or derogatory. He knows of nothing in FORD's background which might embarrass the nominee or the administration should it be made public.

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DE 161-1355  
JHR/dlc - 1

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COMMON PLEAS COURT, WAYNE COUNTY

On October 17, 1973, SA [REDACTED]  
of the Detroit office contacted Common Pleas Court  
Judge JULIAN P. RODGERS, JR., at his office in Room 901  
in the City County Building in Detroit, Michigan. Judge  
RODGERS advised that he is not personally acquainted with  
GERALD R. FORD although he may have met him at a political  
function. He further advised that he knows of no reason  
why Mr. FORD would not make a suitable Vice-President.  
Mr. RODGERS stated that all his knowledge of Mr. FORD was  
obtained through the news media.

DE 161-1355  
RTG/pjf - 1

COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 16, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

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IRWIN H. BURDICK, Judge, Common Pleas Court, City  
County Building, advised that he has met Vice-Presidential  
Nominee, GERALD FORD at various political functions within the  
last five years. He stated that he has no personal knowledge  
of FORD's ability, character or personal life, but that he has  
heard many good things concerning him. He advised that he has  
never heard any derogatory information concerning FORD.

DE 161-1355  
RTG/pjf - 1

COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGES

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 16, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

BENJAMIN C. STANCZYK, Judge, Common Pleas Court, City County Building, advised that he met GERALD FORD in 1948, when FORD first was introduced into politics. He stated that he has never seen the man since that time and that he has never had any personal contact other than the 1948 meeting. He advised that he has no personal knowledge of FORD's activities but stated that he has never heard anything derogatory concerning FORD.

DE 161-1355  
JDG/lcc - 1

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COMMON PLEAS COURT, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

The Honorable FREDERICK E. BYRD, Common Pleas Court Judge, Detroit, Michigan, was contacted at his office, Room 913, City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5502.

Judge BYRD advised that in 1953 he was the County Vice-Chairman for the Republican Party in Wayne County, Michigan. He advised that in this position he had some contact with the Vice-Presidential Appointee, GERALD R. FORD. Judge BYRD advised that his little association with FORD was amiable and he had no derogatory statements to make concerning Mr. FORD.

Judge BYRD advised that he has had no contact with Mr. FORD since the fall of 1953, and he could provide no further information regarding Mr. FORD.

DN 161-1355  
GOB/emv - 1

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COMMON PLEAS COURT

On October 17, 1973, the following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] at Detroit, Michigan:

ANDREW DI MAGGIO, Judge, Common Pleas Court, City of Detroit, Lafayette Building, 149 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, advised he had never met GERALD FORD and did not know him. In view of this fact, Judge DI MAGGIO stated he could not comment about Mr. FORD other than to say he had never heard anything derogatory about him.

DE 161-1355  
GOB/lim - 1

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COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGE

On October 16, 1973, the following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan:

WILLIAM J. GIOVAN, Judge, Common Pleas Court, City of Detroit, 149 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, advised he did not know GERALD R. FORD either personally or professionally. He said recently, however, a local television talk show commentator, LOU GORDON, criticized GERALD FORD for getting G. GORDON LIDDY his first job in Washington, D.C. Judge GIOVAN concluded by saying the only information he had concerning FORD was obtained through news media and any statements concerning FORD would be that of a citizen's opinion.

G. GORDON LIDDY was arrested and convicted in Federal Court for "conspiracy" in connection with the burglary of the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C., in 1972. He is presently incarcerated in Federal prison.



DE 161-1355  
JHR/KAB - 1

COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGE

On October 16, 1973, SA [ ] of the Detroit Office of the FBI, telephonically contacted Common Pleas Court Judge RICARDO J. LUBIENSKI, Room 911, City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-5484, in order to make an appointment for an interview. Judge LUBIENSKI advised that an appointment would not be necessary inasmuch as he had never met GERALD R. FORD, the subject of the interview. He further stated that he has never heard anything derogatory about Mr. FORD. Judge LUBIENSKI further advised that he presently resides at 3453 Porter Street, Detroit, Michigan, and has home telephone number [ ]

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DE 161-1355  
RAG/lim - 1

COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGE

HAROLD HOOD, Lafayette Building, was  
contacted on October 16, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Judge HOOD advised that he had never  
met GERALD R. FORD personally and did not know  
of any derogatory information pertaining to him.

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DE 161-1355  
RAG/lim - 1

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COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGE

GEORGE D. KENT, City County Building, was contacted on October 16, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] Judge KENT advised he had no personal knowledge of the Vice President designate and that he had never heard anything derogatory about him.

DE 161-1355  
JDG/dlc - 1

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COMMON PLEAS COURT, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The following investigation was conducted on  
October 16, 1973, by SA [ ] at Detroit, Michigan:

The Honorable JOHN W. CONNOLLY, Common Pleas Judge,  
was located in Room 1019, City County Building, Detroit,  
Michigan, telephone number 224-5480, and provided the  
following information:

Judge CONNOLLY advised that he is not acquainted  
with GERALD R. FORD, Vice-Presidential Appointee. Judge  
CONNOLLY advised that his only knowledge of FORD is that  
which he obtains from the news media. Judge CONNOLLY advised  
that he has never heard any derogatory information concerning  
GERALD FORD.

Judge CONNOLLY stated that he could provide no  
information in reference to GERALD R. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
TW/lcc - 1

COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGES, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

On October 16, 1973, Judge DONALD L. HOBSON, Common Pleas Court, Detroit, Michigan, advised SA [ ] that he had no information concerning Congressman GERALD R. FORD's loyalty, reputation, character, or associates. Judge HOBSON had never met FORD or dealt with him on a professional basis. His only source of information concerning Congressman FORD has been the news media, and he had no derogatory information. He knew of no reason why Congressman FORD should not be approved by Congress for the position of Vice President.

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DE 161-1355  
TW/lcc - 1

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COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGES, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

On October 16, 1973, Judge DANIEL J. VAN ANTWERP, Common Pleas Court, Detroit, Michigan, advised SA [ ] that he had no information concerning Congressman GERALD R. FORD's loyalty, reputation, character, or associates. Judge VAN ANTWERP had never met FORD or dealt with him on a professional basis. His only source of information concerning Congressman FORD has been the news media, and he had no derogatory information. He knew of no reason why Congressman FORD should not be approved by Congress for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
RCP:lrc 1

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DETROIT RECORDERS COURT JUDGE

The following represents results of interview conducted on October 16, 1973, concerning Vice President designate GERALD FORD by Special Agent

ELVIN DAVENPORT, Detroit Records Court Judge, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 224-2467, advised that he has met Representative FORD on two occasions casually but does not know him personally. Judge DAVENPORT stated that from his knowledge of Representative FORD he appears to be a very capable individual with unquestionable character and loyalty. Judge DAVENPORT stated that during the years he has been a Records Court Judge, he has always heard very favorable comments concerning Representative FORD from all sectors of society.

Judge DAVENPORT stated he has never heard any derogatory information concerning Representative FORD's views toward civil rights. Judge DAVENPORT further stated that he would highly recommend Representative FORD for Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
RSF:kc - 1

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Detroit Records Court Judge

The following investigation was conducted at Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

DONALD S. LEONARD, Detroit Records Court Judge, was interviewed at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice and supplied the following information.

Judge LEONARD stated that he has known GERALD FORD for over twenty five years. He stated that he has followed Mr. FORD's career and considers him to be of "impeccable character, of the highest moral standards, and a truly loyal American".

He stated that he has known him since his University of Michigan football days and knew his father before him.

Judge LEONARD stated that "people from both sides of the aisle admire and respect him".

Judge LEONARD stated that he doubted that anyone could have any derogatory information concerning GERALD FORD, simply because there is none.



DE 161-1355

JW/clc - 1

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WAYNE COUNTY JUDGES

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

Judge HENRY L. HEADING, Records Court, Detroit, who resides at 18420 Santa Barbara, Detroit, telephone number [redacted] advised on October 17, 1973, that he has known United States Congressman GERALD R. FORD for the past twenty years. He commented that his knowledge of Congressman FORD was meeting him and hearing him speak at Michigan Republican State Conventions. He commented that FORD is of excellent character, and his loyalty is beyond reproach. Judge HEADING stated nothing has come to his attention which could be considered or construed as detrimental to his morals. He went on to state Congressman FORD is a conservative individual and this fact possibly is reflected in the Congressman's civil rights views but considers his views on civil rights very constructive and fair. Judge HEADING advised that he does not know anything concerning Congressman FORD's qualifications as an attorney and he highly recommended his appointment as Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
RAM/KAB - 1

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DETROIT RECORDERS COURT JUDGE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

SAMUEL H. OLSEN, Records Court Judge, Murphy Hall of Justice, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he met GERALD FORD about three years ago at some type of political gathering. At that time, he had a short conversation with him and he was highly impressed by Mr. FORD. Although he personally is unable to comment on Mr. FORD's reputation, character, associates, morals, or opinions, he is aware of FORD's public image, and that is nothing but excellent. He has heard only fine remarks made about Mr. FORD. He knows nothing of FORD's qualifications as an attorney, as he never appeared before him.

OLSEN feels that the nomination of FORD is an excellent one and he hopes that it is confirmed by the Congress. He knows nothing at all of a derogatory nature concerning FORD. To the best of his knowledge, FORD has an excellent reputation. Based on his brief knowledge of FORD, he would consider him an outstanding choice for the Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JS/lcc - 1

DETROIT RECORDERS COURT JUDGES

On October 17, 1973, Judge JOSEPH A. GILLIS, City of Detroit, Michigan, Records Court, a resident at 18427 Snowden, Detroit, was interviewed by SA [ ] at the Murphy Hall of Justice.

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Judge GILLIS advised that he had served as a member of the State of Michigan Legislature from 1959 to 1964 and during that period he was present at functions where GERALD FORD was also in attendance. He stated these functions were usually in Lansing, Michigan, and were political, social or governmental in nature. He stated these functions were normally attended by large groups of individuals, however, he did have occasion to become acquainted with FORD. Judge GILLIS advised this was the extent of their association.

Judge GILLIS stated that he had never heard anything derogatory concerning FORD in any regard. He stated he was unable to offer any further comments concerning FORD inasmuch as he was not well enough acquainted with him.

DE 161-1355  
JS/lcc - 1

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DETROIT RECORDERS COURT JUDGES

On October 17, 1973, Judge JOSEPH E. MAHER, City of Detroit, Michigan, Records Court, a resident at 24526 Shiawassee, Detroit, was interviewed at the Murphy Hall of Justice by SA [REDACTED].

Judge MAHER advised he was not personally acquainted with GERALD FORD and had never met him. Judge MAHER advised his knowledge of FORD has been obtained through sources of public knowledge and the media, and he therefore was unable to offer any comments concerning him.

DE 161-1355  
BBL:js - 1

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The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

JOHN R. MURPHY, Judge, Detroit Records Court, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he has never met Vice Presidential nominee GERALD FORD. He has no personal knowledge of FORD's capabilities or expertise as an attorney or legislator. Judge MURPHY stated that FORD enjoys an excellent general reputation in the judicial community and is thought of as a highly capable and industrious individual. He further advised that he has never heard any derogatory information concerning FORD and has no reason to doubt the man's honesty, integrity, loyalty or character.

MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN STATE LEGISLATURE

DE 161-1355  
DGK/pjw -1

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STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Mt. Clemens, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

THOMAS GUASTELLO (D), State Representative, 33 Crocker Boulevard, was contacted at his office at which time he advised that he does not personally know nor is he personally acquainted with GERALD RUDOLPH FORD. Mr. GUASTELLO advised that he knows Mr. FORD's brother, THOMAS, through four years of membership with the Michigan State House of Representatives and has nothing but the best to say regarding Mr. FORD's brother and the reputation enjoyed by the FORD family, including GERALD R. FORD. Mr. GUASTELLO advised that he knows of no derogatory information regarding any of the FORDs, including GERALD R. FORD, and states that to the best of his knowledge GERALD FORD and family are of the highest character, morals and background. Inasmuch as he does not know him personally, he cannot make a recommendation regarding Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney and knows of no reason why he should not be considered for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
SPA/kpd -1

STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

Representative PHILIP O. MASTIN, JR., 526 E. Harry Street, Hazel Park, Michigan, advised that he is a Michigan State Representative, 69th District, which is southeast Oakland County. He further advised that he has never met GERALD R. FORD, the Vice-Presidential nominee. He further advised that any knowledge he has of FORD is only that which he has obtained from the news media. He advised that he has never heard anything derogatory regarding Congressman FORD; but, he does remember reading in the newspaper, either the "Detroit Free Press" or the "Detroit News," that FORD is considered a "conduit" through which funds are funneled to other GOP candidates.

Representative MASTIN advised that FORD's brother, TOM FORD, was a Michigan State Legislator who was defeated last election. MASTIN was acquainted with TOM FORD, but only slightly.



DE 161-1355  
PLM/dlc - 1

STATE SENATOR

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973 at Rochester,  
Michigan:

Michigan State Senator DONALD E. BISHOP, 16th  
Congressional District, Oakland County, Michigan, was  
interviewed at his residence, 2332 West Avon Road,  
Rochester, Michigan, residence phone [REDACTED]. Senator BISHOP,  
as an Attorney-at-Law, has offices at 103 East 4th Street,  
Rochester, Michigan, phone 651-4888.

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Senator BISHOP stated that he has been slightly  
acquainted with Vice-Presidential appointee GERALD R. FORD  
since 1968 with respect to their respective employments as  
State Senator and United States Representative. Senator  
BISHOP stated he has also been acquainted with the appointee's  
brother, THOMAS FORD, a former Michigan State Representative  
and more recently, an employee of the State of Michigan.

Senator BISHOP stated he knows nothing derogatory  
concerning the appointee, his family, or associates, and  
has always considered the appointee and his family to be of  
excellent reputation, morals, and loyal American citizens.

Senator BISHOP stated he knows nothing of the  
appointee's views on civil rights, his financial background,  
or qualifications as an attorney. Senator BISHOP stated  
he would highly recommend the appointee for consideration for  
the position of Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355

DVR/kpd -1

MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Michigan State Representative WILLIAM B. FITZGERALD, 5550 Courville Road, Detroit, Michigan, advised SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973, that he is in his second term in the Michigan legislature and has met U.S. Representative GERALD R. FORD a couple of times in the past four years. He further advised that he has not received any derogatory information regarding FORD's character, morals or associates. He indicated that he has no information regarding FORD's qualifications, finances, or stand on civil rights, but knows of nothing which would disqualify him from holding the position of Vice President of the United States.

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Representative FITZGERALD stated that he had no qualms about recommending GERALD FORD for Vice President.

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DE 161-1355  
CDM/mpr - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

Senator GARY BYKER, Republican, District 23, Hudsonville, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD since approximately 1955 and highly recommended FORD for any position in the Federal Government and stated that he had only the highest regard for FORD.

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DE 161-1355  
CDM/mpr - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

Senator MILTON ZAAGMAN, Republican, District 32, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD since 1952, or approximately 21 years. He stated that he would recommend FORD for any position in the Federal Government and described FORD as being a man of high character, high morals, and a good reputation in his community.

DE 161-1355  
DAT/js -1

DEMOCRATIC MICHIGAN STATE SENATORS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA DONALD A. THIEL at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

GEORGE S. FITZGERALD, Democratic Leader, Michigan  
State Senate, furnished the following information:

He advised that he has been acquainted with the  
political life of GERALD FORD for many years and considers him  
to be a good choice for the position of Vice President of the  
United States. He advised that he believes FORD to be of the  
highest moral character and nothing has ever come to his  
attention which would reflect unfavorably on FORD's honesty  
or integrity. He stated that although he and FORD have  
different political philosophies, he feels that he  
could recommend FORD for the position of Vice President  
of the United States.

DANIEL S. COOPER, Democratic Member, Michigan  
State Senate, furnished the following information:

He advised that he is not personally acquainted  
with Congressman GERALD FORD and has had no contact with  
him politically; however, he advised that in political circles  
in Michigan, FORD enjoys a good reputation and nothing  
unfavorable has ever come to his attention concerning his  
character or politics.

GARLAND LANE, Democratic Member, Michigan State  
Senate, advised that he knows nothing concerning Congressman  
GERALD FORD and he has no personal knowledge of any  
unfavorable information concerning FORD.

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MS 161-1355  
Chambers, dkd - 1

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b7c

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Lansing, Mich-  
igan, on October 16, 1973:

Senator JAMES D. GRAY, Democrat, District 27,  
advised that he does not know GERALD ROLD personall-  
ly, but has worked for many years in Michigan State Govern-  
ment and has heard nothing but the finest comments con-  
cerning the conduct and activities of Representative  
ROLD.

DE 161-1355  
DAT/js -1

REPUBLICAN MICHIGAN STATE SENATORS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA DONALD A. THIEL at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

ROBERT W. DAVIS, Republican Whip, Michigan State  
Senate, furnished the following information:

He stated he has had limited personal  
contact with Representative GERALD FORD, but that he has  
met him on occasion in connection with Republican Party  
functions. He advised he knows nothing of his personal  
life. DAVIS stated that nothing has come to his attention  
in his contacts with other State Senators or anyone else  
which would reflect unfavorably on Mr. FORD. He stated that  
all the information concerning FORD which has come to his  
attention has been favorable and he has the reputation in  
political circles as being a "clean politician". He advised  
that he would recommend him for the position of Vice President  
of the United States.

JOHN F. TOEPP, Republican Floor Leader, Michigan  
State Senate, furnished the following information:

He stated that he has known GERALD FORD for 20 years,  
both personally and politically. He advised that they have  
attended many public functions together and have traveled  
together. He advised that he considers FORD to be well-qualified  
for the job, namely Vice President, an extremely close family  
man, of impeccable character and nothing unfavorable has  
come to his attention which would reflect unfavorably on the  
personal or political life of GERALD FORD.

GORDON ROCKWELL, Republican Member, Michigan  
State Senate, furnished the following information:

He advised that he has had contact with GERALD  
FORD in the last seven or eight years on various occasions,  
all political in nature. He stated that in his opinion,  
GERALD FORD is an excellent Congressman and enjoys a very  
good reputation in political circles. He stated that nothing  
derogatory has ever come to his attention concerning FORD's  
character or politics and he feels that he could recommend  
FORD for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
WWM/pjf - 1

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STATE OF MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 16, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

Mrs. HELEN R. IRVING, Representative of the 14th Congressional District, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 926-5501, advised the only knowledge she possesses with regards to Mr. GERALD FORD has been obtained through the news media.

Mrs. IRVING stated she has had no personal contact or knowledge of the Vice-President designate, and felt she is not in a position to express any type of opinion with regards to Mr. FORD's qualifications or abilities due to this lack of personal knowledge.



REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355  
MLC/sas/pjw -1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973:

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Mrs. ELLY PETERSON, [ ]  
Charlotte, Michigan, telephone number [ ] advised  
that she is the former State Republican Party Chairman of  
Michigan, and advised that she knows appointee only through  
his dealings with the Party. Mrs. PETERSON advised that she  
found appointee to be loyal to the Party and a man of  
unquestionable integrity and character. Mrs. PETERSON  
states that she cannot think of any derogatory information  
concerning appointee. Mrs. PETERSON advised that she is  
not aware of any psychiatric consultations referred to in  
the press.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/lim - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Mr. ROBERT H. BLANDFORD, 1935 Meadowfield, NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, residence telephone number [redacted] was contacted.

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He advised he has been a member of the Kent County Board of Commissioners since 1953, except for 1961 and 1962. Mr. BLANDFORD advised that he has been so elected over that period as a member of the Republican Party.

He stated that he has known FORD since 1948. He has had very little social contact with him. He stated that approximately 95 percent of his contact with FORD has been with regard to City and County and Grand Rapids related matters.

He characterized FORD as being most responsive to all inquiries that had been made by him with regard to his job as a City Commissioner.

He knows of no derogatory information regarding FORD and could provide no information regarding members of FORD's family.

He stated he would recommend him highly for any position and believes him to be an outstanding candidate for the office of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/lim - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Mr. THOMAS H. LAMOREAUX, 200 Greenridge Drive, Grand Rapids, residence telephone number [redacted] was contacted.

Mr. LAMOREAUX stated he is an elected member of the Kent County Board of Commissioners and has held that post for approximately the last 25 years. Mr. LAMOREAUX stated he is a member of the Republican Party and was so elected to his Commissioner's post.

He is also the owner of the Lamoreaux Drug Store in Comstock Park, Michigan, where he is self-employed as the owner-pharmacist.

Mr. LAMOREAUX advised he has known FORD since approximately 1965 and came to know him because of his representative affiliation.

With regard to his post with the County Commission, Mr. LAMOREAUX stated that he has had several contacts with FORD. He characterized FORD as being a highly effective representative and an individual who has assisted the Grand Rapids area greatly. Their relationship has been strictly professional and he has had no contact with FORD on a social basis.

Mr. LAMOREAUX further advised that FORD, in their contacts, has been most responsive and highly professional.

He believes that FORD would make an excellent Vice President and he unequivocally recommends him.

Mr. LAMOREAUX advised he does not know any of FORD's relatives and could provide no information in that regard. Further he advised that FORD is highly recommended in the Grand Rapids community by both Democrats and Republicans and has received wide support from members of the opposition party over the years simply because he has carried out his representative role so effectively.

DE 161-1355  
TWR/lim - 1

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REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [ ] on October 16, 1973:

Mr. DENZIL LEE HAMMOND, [ ]  
Detroit, Michigan, telephone number [ ] who  
is employed by Chrysler Corporation, 11800 Oakland  
Street, Highland Park, Michigan, telephone number  
956-3992, was interviewed at his place of business  
and provided the following information:

Mr. HAMMOND stated he is the chairman for  
the United Republican Fund for the 17th Congressional  
District and that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD  
for approximately five years during which time he met  
Mr. FORD five times. He stated he had never had a  
personal conversation with Mr. FORD.

Mr. HAMMOND stated he believed Mr. FORD's  
character was beyond reproach and that he considered  
him to be an honest and trustworthy individual. He  
stated he was not in a position to comment personally  
concerning morals or associates as he did not know  
Mr. FORD very well. He advised that, to the best of  
his knowledge, Mr. FORD is loyal to his country and  
to the Republican Party and that he would, without  
reservation, recommend him for the position of Vice  
President.

Mr. HAMMOND stated he was not familiar with  
Mr. FORD's stand on civil rights or his qualifications  
as an attorney.

Mr. HAMMOND stated the only derogatory  
information concerning Mr. FORD that he was aware of  
was allegations made by the Detroit Free Press and the  
Detroit News to the extent that Mr. FORD allegedly  
received funds from the Republican National Campaign  
Fund in excess of congressional limitations during  
Mr. FORD's campaign for re-election in 1972. Mr. HAMMOND  
stated he read the funds were returned to the central  
committee. Mr. HAMMOND was rather vague concerning details  
of this allegation and advised the full story could be  
obtained through newspaper accounts.

DE 161-1355  
GCS/dm 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 16, 1973, at Detroit,  
Michigan:

Mr. PHILIP E. O'DONNELL, 17th Congressional  
District Wayne County Republican Committee Chairman,  
[redacted] Detroit, Michigan, telephone [redacted]  
advised that he has met GERALD R. FORD on only one  
occasion and has had no direct contact with him. He  
stated that in his capacity with the party over the  
past six years he has heard no adverse comments concerning  
Mr. FORD's character, loyalty, or morals. He related  
that Mr. FORD's reputation is impeccable and he knew  
nothing of a derogatory nature regarding Mr. FORD's  
qualifications.

He further advised that his knowledge was  
too limited to comment on Mr. FORD's associates, views  
on Civil Rights, qualification as an attorney, or  
financial background. He stated Mr. FORD was highly  
qualified and he would recommend him without reservation  
for the position of Vice-President of the United States.

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DE 161-1355  
RFM/lim - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at  
Livonia, Michigan:

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Mrs. SYLVIA SKREL, [redacted]  
Michigan, telephone number [redacted] is the Chairwoman,  
Wayne Second Congressional District, Republican Committee  
for the State of Michigan.

Mrs. SKREL has known of GERALD R. FORD since  
she began in politics about ten years ago. She has met  
him twice at two Republican social events and found  
him to be a very pleasant and loyal individual who is  
held in the highest esteem by his constituents. She has  
never heard anything derogatory about Mr. FORD and  
would highly recommend him for the position of Vice  
President of the United States.

Mrs. SKREL was unable to provide any  
information as to Mr. FORD's views on civil rights  
or his qualifications as an attorney.

DE 161-1355  
RFM/lim - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at  
Royal Oak, Michigan:

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Mrs. JEAN N. CHAMBERLAIN [redacted]  
[redacted] telephone number [redacted], is the Chairwoman  
of the 18th Congressional Republican District for the  
State of Michigan and has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD  
for about 12 years. She has met him personally twice  
at Republican functions and on those occasions observed  
him to be a very warm and friendly person who has  
attained a very honorable reputation with Michigan  
Republican Party members. During all the time she  
has been in politics, she has never heard any rumors  
or derogatory statements about Mr. FORD. In addition,  
she has never heard of Mr. FORD not being loyal to the  
United States or sympathizing with any foreign government.

Mrs. CHAMBERLAIN could provide no information  
with regard to Mr. FORD's views on civil rights or his  
qualifications as an attorney; however, she strongly  
recommends him for the position of Vice President of  
the United States.



DE 161-1365  
GOS/dm 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973, at Pontiac,  
Michigan:

Mr. SHELDON B. SMITH, Chairman, Oakland  
County Republican Committee, [ ]  
[ ] Michigan, telephone [ ] advised that  
he has been acquainted with GERALD R. FORD for six  
years, but he does not know him personally. He  
stated that he has never heard anything of a derogatory  
nature concerning Mr. FORD's character, morals, or  
loyalty. He further advised that Mr. FORD is highly  
regarded by his colleagues and his reputation is above  
reproach.

He could not comment on Mr. FORD's associates,  
views on Civil Rights, qualifications as an attorney or  
financial background since he had limited knowledge in  
these areas. He advised that Mr. FORD is extremely  
qualified and he would absolutely recommend him for the  
position of Vice-President of the United States.

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DE 161-1355  
RFM/pjf - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 16, 1973, at Dearborn, Michigan:

Mr. JOHN F. CARTWRIGHT, [ ]  
Michigan, telephone number [ ] is employed by Ford Motor  
Company, American Road, Dearborn, Michigan, in the Office of  
General Counsel, Room 10584, telephone number 322-3531.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT is the Chairman of the 19th Congressional  
Republican District for the State of Michigan and has known Mr.  
GERALD R. FORD for about 20 years, during which time he has never  
heard anything of a derogatory nature about him. Mr. CARTWRIGHT  
indicated that he has had the opportunity to meet Mr. FORD about  
two or three times each year since 1953 and knows him to be  
an individual with the highest character and moral conviction.  
Mr. CARTWRIGHT stated that Mr. FORD's integrity is above reproach  
and is highly regarded as a politician by his constituents  
because when he says he will do something, his word is his bond.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT knows very little about Mr. FORD's  
associates, with the exception of those who are members of the  
Michigan Republican Party and does not know of his qualifications  
as a practicing attorney or his views on civil rights.

From the contacts, Mr. CARTWRIGHT has had, he considers  
Mr. FORD an extremely loyal, dedicated American whom he would  
strongly recommend to be Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1255  
WJT/cjn - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

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ALFRED A. MAY, home address [redacted]  
[redacted] Detroit, Michigan, and Chairman, First  
Congressional District, Michigan State Republican Party,  
Acting County Chairman, Wayne County Michigan, for the  
Michigan State Republican Party and member Michigan  
State Republican Central Committee, advised he has known  
Mr. GERALD R. FORD politically for the past eight years.  
He stated Mr. FORD is a very hard worker, completely  
honest, cooperative and a team man. He advised Mr.  
FORD possesses an outstanding character whose morals  
and loyalty are above reproach. He continued that his  
associates are of very high quality and considers  
Mr. FORD's qualifications as outstanding for the position  
of Vice President. He advised further that Mr. FORD's  
credentials on civil rights were superlative, however,  
Mr. MAY said he never knew Mr. FORD as an attorney and could  
not comment on that matter. Mr. MAY concluded that he  
would recommend Mr. FORD highly for the position of  
Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
TWR/lim - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [ ] on October 16, 1973:

Mr. ROBERT L. SLAUGHTER, [ ]  
Dearborn, Michigan, telephone number [ ] who  
is employed with R. L. Slaughter and Associates,  
22263 Garrison Street, Dearborn, telephone number  
562-4410, was interviewed at his place of business  
and provided the following information:

Mr. SLAUGHTER stated that he is the  
Republican Party Chairman for the Republican Committee  
for the 16th Congressional District and that he has  
known Mr. GERALD R. FORD for approximately ten years  
during which he has met him approximately ten times  
and spoke with him personally on five occasions.

Mr. SLAUGHTER described Mr. FORD as an  
individual of unblemished character and loyalty and  
considered him an outstanding candidate for Vice  
President.

He advised he was not a personal friend of  
Mr. FORD's and was not in a position to comment with  
regard to associates. Mr. SLAUGHTER stated he had  
no personal knowledge of any adverse information  
concerning questions of morals and described Mr. FORD  
as a completely trustworthy person. He advised he  
was not familiar with Mr. FORD's qualifications as  
an attorney as he was not acquainted with him while  
he was a practicing attorney.

Mr. SLAUGHTER stated he knew of no derogatory  
information which could affect Mr. FORD's confirmation  
as Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
WJT/emv/jbm - 1

REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Detroit, Michigan, on October 16,  
1973:

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RICHARD DURANT, Attorney-at-Law, business address, 139 Cadillac Square, Detroit, home address, [ ], Grosse Pointe City, Michigan, who is Congressional District Chairman for the 14th District of the Michigan State Republican Party, advised he has known the Appointee since 1949. He described the Appointee as an individual of excellent integrity who does something when he says he is going to do it, and never goes back on his word. Mr. DURANT stated he has no reason to doubt the Appointee's loyalty and he has never known him to associate with any criminals or subversives. He said that his character was excellent and he was patriotic.

Mr. DURANT advised further that he has never known the Appointee to discriminate against a person because of his race, creed or color, and he said he was a very effective attorney of high intelligence. Mr. DURANT advised that he would recommend the Appointee highly for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/dlc/mmr - 1

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973.

Mr. JACKSON J. ROOT, 157 North Monroe, Rockford, Michigan, residence telephone [ ], advised he has been an elected Republican member of the Kent County Board of Commissioners for the last five years.

Mr. ROOT advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for approximately 15 years. He stated that he has had numerous contacts with him in regard to business concerning Kent County. Mr. ROOT characterized Mr. FORD's work on behalf of his constituents as very effective. He believes him to be an honest and forthright individual and knows of no derogatory information concerning FORD. Mr. ROOT further stated that he has no hesitation in recommending FORD for any office, whether it be state, city or Federal. He advised further that he believes if FORD is confirmed, he will make a very effective Vice President.

Mr. ROOT further stated he does not know any members of FORD's family nor does he know any of his associates. He characterized FORD's staff as very effective and one which has served FORD and his constituents well.

Mr. ROOT advised that, in addition to his being employed as an elected County Commissioner, he is also the owner of the Jack Root Insurance Agency in Rockford, Michigan.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355  
JWH/lim - 1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Detroit,  
Michigan:

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JESSIE DILLARD, [ ] Detroit,  
advised she is Field Staff Representative, Democratic  
State Central Committee for the 1st, 13th, 14th, and  
17th Districts.

She stated she has no reason to doubt the  
appointee's character, morals, associates, loyalty,  
qualifications as an attorney, and financial background.

She advised that she did not have the authority  
to recommend Mr. FORD as Vice President; however, Senator  
BIRCH BAYH recommended Mr. FORD and she respects Mr. BAYH's  
views.



DE 161-1355  
JCE/lim - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

Mr. FRILEY T. JOHNSON, 722 Logan, SE, Grand  
Rapids, residence telephone [redacted] was contacted.

Mr. JOHNSON stated he has been a member of the  
Kent County Board of Commissioners for approximately  
the last five years. Mr. JOHNSON stated he was elected  
to the post of Commissioner. He is a member of the  
Democratic Party and was elected to his current post  
under that party label.

Mr. JOHNSON advised he has met Representative  
GERALD R. FORD on several occasions personally and has  
known him for more than 25 years. He characterized his  
relationship with FORD as being one which is strictly  
personal. He has had no contact with him on a social  
basis. He advised that he has never met and does not  
know any of FORD's family members.

Mr. FRILEY stated he has no derogatory informa-  
tion regarding FORD and regards him highly for any elected  
or appointed office. He believes him to be highly qualified  
because of his long experience in Congress for the post  
of Vice President of the United States.

He related that his association with FORD during  
the last five years has shown that FORD is a very effective  
and hard working representative for his congressional  
district.

In spite of the fact Mr. JOHNSON is a Democrat,  
he said he has absolutely no hesitation in recommending  
FORD.

Mr. JOHNSON stated he has no information con-  
cerning any of FORD's associates and has had no contact  
with any of his administrative assistants.

DE 161-1355  
JWH:vlm:kc - 1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], on October 17, 1973, at Detroit,  
Michigan:

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On October 17, 1973, BERNARD M. RYAN, [REDACTED]  
Wyandotte, Michigan, advised he is Field Staff Representative,  
Michigan Democratic State Control Committee for Western  
Wayne County. He stated he has no reason to doubt the appointee's  
character, morals, associates, loyalty, qualifications as an  
attorney or financial background.

He claimed not to know the appointee personally, and was  
acquainted with him only through articles he read and con-  
versations he had during the course of his work for the  
Democratic Party.

He advised, however, that he would not recommend  
Mr. FORD for Vice President, since he would never recommend  
a Republican who has supported the foreign and economic  
policies of the Nixon Administration as the appointee has done.

DE 161-1355  
WNA/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

POLITICAL OPPONENTS

[ ] Office Manager, Reamon, Williams,  
Klukowski, and Craft Law Firm, 309E Waters Building, Grand  
Rapids, advised that WILLIAM REAMON is presently touring  
Europe and will not return for several weeks.

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[ ] advised she has been employed as a  
[ ] to Mr. REAMON for the past 15 years and during that  
time [ ] has opposed GERALD R. FORD on numerous occasions  
in the past elections. These two men have debated over  
respective Republican and Democratic party platforms, however,  
neither individual has probed into the private life of his  
opponent. [ ] added that REAMON and FORD are presently  
friends and that FORD is highly thought of in the community.  
[ ] could furnish no derogatory information regarding  
REAMON's opinion of FORD.

DE 161-1355  
CDM/mpr -1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Lansing, Michigan, on  
October 16, 1973:

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Senator BASIL W. BROWN, Negro, District 6, Highland Park, Michigan, advised that he has only known GERALD FORD professionally as a politician and could not be considered a personal or even an acquaintance of Mr. FORD. He stated, however, that he highly recommended Mr. FORD because he has heard nothing but good comments concerning FORD's character, morals, conduct, and high reputation in the Michigan area.

DE 161-1355  
TDC/dlc - 1

STATE DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted on  
October 16, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]:

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Mr. STUART HERTZBENZ, Attorney and State Treasurer,  
Michigan State Democratic Party, advised that he did not  
know the appointee and therefore could make no comment  
regarding his appointment.

DE 161-1355  
MAE/pap - 1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

ELIZABETH B. BURCH, Chairman, 18th District, Democratic  
Party, State of Michigan, 22190 Garrison Dearborn, Michigan,  
telephone 565-9723, residence [ ] Dearborn, Michigan, [ ]  
[ ] advised that she has never personally met GERALD FORD and  
knows of no derogatory information concerning him. Mrs.  
BURCH stated that she has no reason to believe that GERALD FORD  
should not hold a trustworthy position in the government.

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DE 161-1355  
MAE/pap - 1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

VINCENT J. PETITPREN, Chairman, 15th District,  
Democratic Party, State of Michigan, [ ] Westland,  
Michigan, telephone [ ] advised that he is not personally  
acquainted with GERALD FORD. PETITPREN stated that he served  
with THOMAS FORD, GERALD FORD's brother, in the Michigan House  
of Representatives for seven years and had heard comments from  
THOMAS FORD concerning his brother's activities, but had never  
heard anything derogatory from any source concerning GERALD FORD.  
PETITPREN further advised that to the best of his knowledge he  
believes GERALD FORD to be capable of holding a trustworthy  
position in the government.

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DE 161-1355  
TDC/tsd - 1

STATE DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted at  
Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED], on October 16, 1973:

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Mr. JOHN B. BRUFF, Attorney and Twelfth District  
Chairman, Michigan State Democratic Party, stated that  
he does not know the appointee except by reputation.  
BRUFF advised that appointee enjoys an excellent reputa-  
tion in the State and appears to be a fine choice for the  
position. BRUFF knows of no reason that appointee should  
not hold a position of trust with the Government.



DE 161-1355

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

PHILIP F. GORAC, Chairman, 17th District, Democratic Party, State of Michigan, 1106 A City-County Building, telephone number 224-3450, residence [redacted] Detroit, telephone [redacted] advised that he has never personally met GERALD FORD. GORAC further advised that he is not aware of any derogatory information concerning GERALD FORD and that to the best of his knowledge he believes GERALD FORD to be capable of holding a trustworthy position in the government.

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DE 161-1355  
JWH/sas -1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted], on October 17, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

On October 17, 1973, HUBERT HOLLEY, [redacted] Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed concerning the selection of GERALD FORD as Vice-Presidential designate, and he furnished the following information:

Mr. HOLLEY stated he is Chairman of the First Congressional Democratic District of Detroit. Regarding Mr. FORD's character, morals, associates, loyalty, qualifications as an attorney and financial background, he could not provide any information of a derogatory nature.

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He would not recommend Mr. FORD as Vice-President due to Mr. FORD's views concerning labor unions and civil rights, specifically he claimed that FORD voted against the recent legislation regarding minimum wage increase; and has usually voted against previous legislation favoring labor.

Regarding civil rights, he claimed that a few years ago, FORD marched with [redacted] of Pontiac, Michigan, in Dearborn, Michigan, to protest the bussing of school children. Although he did not see FORD personally in the march, he did read about it in the newspapers.

He claimed that FORD's actions are politically motivated, and do not reflect concern for the people.

DE 161-1355  
TDC/dlc - 1

STATE DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973, in Detroit, Michigan:

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Mr. KENNETH HYLTON, Attorney and Vice Chairman, Michigan State Democratic Party, telephone number 963-8077, advised that he does not personally know the appointee. HYLTON stated appointee enjoys an excellent reputation in the State of Michigan. He knows of no reason to not recommend the appointee for a position of high trust with the United States government.

DE 161-1355  
PJK/pjf - 1

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIAL

The following interview was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 16, 1973:

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SANDER M. LEVIN, Attorney, 1800 First National Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number (313) 961-8380 and former Democratic State Chairman from 1967 to 1969, advised that he met GERALD FORD several years ago at a meeting. LEVIN advised that he does not recall the purpose of the meeting or the exact time the meeting was held.

LEVIN advised that since he did not know FORD, he could not comment on his character, reputation, or loyalty. LEVIN advised that he could not comment on FORD's qualifications as an attorney.

LEVIN advised that he had heard some political gossip regarding FORD's campaign contributions. LEVIN advised that the gossip he had heard regarded the campaign funds recently mentioned in the newspapers. LEVIN advised that he could not recall any details of the gossip.

LEVIN stated that he could not recommend GERALD FORD for the position of Vice-President of the United States because LEVIN did not feel FORD was qualified to be President and a Vice-President should be qualified to take over as President. LEVIN mentioned that if President NIXON had to turn over the Watergate tapes and subsequently was removed from office, the Vice-President would take over and therefore, it is important that the Vice-President be qualified to assume the Presidency of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
PJK/lim - 1

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [ ] on October 16, 1973:

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b7C

BRUCE A. MILLER, Attorney, 2460 First National Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 313-965-7540, and current Democratic Party Chairman for Wayne County, Michigan, advised that he never met GERALD R. FORD. MILLER advised that he was unable to comment on FORD's character, reputation, or loyalty. MILLER advised that he could not comment on FORD's qualifications as an attorney.

MILLER advised that he recalls a Lou Gordon television program concerning a book written on GERALD FORD where the author was a guest on the program. MILLER advised that he recalls the author stating that he was disappointed with FORD after writing the book. MILLER advised that this is the only derogatory information he had ever heard about FORD.

MILLER advised that he could not recommend GERALD FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States because FORD is a Republican. MILLER advised that he would not recommend any Republican for any position anywhere because of the difference in ideology between Democrats and Republicans.

DE 161-1355  
DFC/kab/jms/mmr - 1

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIAL

On October 16, 1973, the following investigation was conducted by SA [ ] in Flint, Michigan:

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LIBBY MAYNARD, Vice Chairman of the Michigan State Democratic Party, 2026 Calumet Street, Flint, Michigan, advised that she knows of GERALD FORD only through the press and has not had any business or social contacts with him. She knows of no derogatory information regarding GERALD FORD's character, loyalty or associates. It is her political judgment that he is qualified to be Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
PWH/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

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EDWARD M. SMITH, Chairman, Democratic Committee of Kent County, 1508 McKay Towers, telephone number 459-3267, said he did not know the nominee on a personal basis. He said he disagreed with Mr. FORD on many political issues, but that as far as he knew, the nominee's personal behavior was exemplary. Therefore, he could think of no reason which would disqualify Mr. FORD for the Vice Presidency.

DE 161-1366  
WWW/DFM/cmp - 1

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS

The following investigation was conducted by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Livonia, Michigan:

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Mr. MARVIN H. STEMPIEN, Chairman, Wayne County Second District of the Democratic Party, and Attorney/Counselor, 27488 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan, telephone number 525-1300, and who resides at [redacted] Livonia, Michigan, telephone number [redacted], advised he has been personally acquainted with GERALD FORD since approximately 1966. STEMPIEN stated his association with FORD has been on both a social and political level.

STEMPIEN stated he has known THOMAS FORD (GERALD FORD's brother) personally since 1964, and both have made politically related trips to Washington, D. C., always stopping at GERALD FORD's office to exchange social amenities.

STEMPIEN advised GERALD FORD is beyond reproach regarding character, associates, loyalty, honesty, reputation and integrity. He stated FORD has the reputation of "making it on his own" and is considered to be a "straight and honest citizen". He advised FORD is also a "family man, with strong regards to family relationships".

STEMPIEN stated he is not aware of any financial investments or involvements regarding FORD, nor is he aware of FORD's capabilities as an attorney while in private practice. STEMPIEN stated GERALD FORD's views with regards to civil rights are humanitarian and just.

STEMPIEN stated GERALD FORD is an excellent choice for the position of Vice President of the United States and he believes FORD should be confirmed for that position.



MEMBERS OF  
POLITICAL PARTIES OTHER THAN  
REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC

DE 161-1355  
EWK/bjk - 1

MINORITY PARTY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] on October 16, 1973:

An attempt was made to interview [redacted] [redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan, at his residence. [redacted] was a political opponent of Representative GERALD R. FORD, JR. during the November, 1973, General Elections. [redacted] was running for office as [redacted] At the outset of the attempted interview [redacted] immediately became extremely hostile and demanded FBI Agents immediately leave his property unless they wished to serve him with a warrant. [redacted] completely refused to be interviewed by Agents of the FBI and in addition, demanded that the FBI never set foot on his property again. At this point, the attempted interview was immediately terminated.

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GRAND RAPIDS CITY OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355  
IAB/dmw/dlc - 1

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b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand  
Rapids, Michigan:

POLITICAL

DONALD L. DAVIS, 1349 Bridge, NW, Grand Rapids,  
telephone number [REDACTED] was contacted and furnished the  
following information:

DAVIS advised that he is a Kent County Commissioner  
and that he was elected to that position on a Democratic  
ticket. DAVIS advised that his father, STANLEY J. DAVIS, is  
appointee. DAVIS stated that he really only knows the  
appointee through his father.

DAVIS advised that his only criticism of appointee  
is that he feels that in recent years the appointee's  
heavy responsibilities as Minority Leader in Congress has taken  
away from the time which he can devote to his constituency  
in Grand Rapids.

DAVIS advised that although he is a staunch  
Democrat he has in recent elections split his ticket in order  
to vote for appointee. He would highly recommend the approval for  
appointee as he feels that he would be a good mate for NIXON.  
DAVIS knows of absolutely no derogatory information which  
might bring embarrassment to President NIXON or the country.

DAVIS pointed out that he believes the appointee  
to be a very fair person on the subject of Civil Rights for  
minority persons and all Americans.

JHC:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted  
by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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JACK BRONKEMA, Clerk of Court, Kent County, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and he advised that he has known GERALD FORD for over 40 years. He stated he knew FORD before he became involved in politics. He went on to say that Mr. GERALD FORD, Sr., was the greatest civic-minded individual in the history of Kent County and that his sons have carried on the tradition of civic responsibility. Mr. BRONKEMA stated that GERALD FORD's integrity is without question and that he is a clean-cut loyal outgoing individual. He described Mr. FORD as a home town boy who succeeds in everything he does. Mr. BRONKEMA stated that he would give Mr. FORD the highest possible recommendation for any position he sought to obtain.

He stated that Mr. FORD's responsiveness as a Congressman went beyond party lines and that he reacts positively to any request imposed by the constituents of his district. Mr. BRONKEMA advised that he is affiliated with the Michigan Republican Party and that he has socially and professionally been associated with Mr. FORD for the past 20 years.

JHC:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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JOHN MAZURKIEWICZ, Fifteenth District  
Commissioner, Kent County Board of Commissioners,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised GERALD R. FORD is  
the most honest individual that exists. Mr.  
MAZURKIEWICZ stated that he is of the Democratic  
Party and feels that GERALD R. FORD follows the  
Republican Party lines too closely and that he is overly  
conservative. He stated that FORD is a trustworthy  
individual of the highest possible integrity and  
indicated that he has no derogatory information to  
provide regarding FORD's background or family. He  
repeated that he felt GERALD FORD was overly conservative  
but advised that he would highly recommend him for  
the position of Vice President.

JHC:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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JOHN H. BREWER, Chairman, Kent County Board  
of Commissioners, Grand Rapids, Michigan, provided  
the following attached adopted resolution urging the  
confirmation of GERALD R. FORD as Vice President of  
the United States.

The Kent County Board of Commissioners (Michigan), the home district of the Honorable Gerald R. Ford, has today adopted a resolution urging the confirmation of our Congressman as Vice President of the United States. Over the last quarter century he has served us well. We are confident that he will equally so serve the people of the United States. While we hate to lose him as our Congressman, we recognize that the good of the nation is paramount. We urge his confirmation as Vice President.

John H. Brewer, Chairman  
Kent County Board of Commissioners  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

The above telegram to:

Howard W. Cannon  
Michael J. Mansfield  
Hugh Scott  
Carl B. Albert  
Leslie C. Arends  
Peter Rodino

Phone No. 1-800-325-5300



JHC:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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WILLIAM FITZSIMMONS, Chief Deputy, County Clerk of Court, Kent County, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD since 1947. He described FORD as a dignified professional and indicated that he is aware of no derogatory information in the background of FORD or in FORD's family.

He stated that FORD is the most respected individual in the Grand Rapids area and he handles himself with the utmost professionalism. He concluded by stating FORD is a loyal American and that he highly recommends him for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
JCE:kc - 1

POLITICAL ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED]:

Mr. JOSEPH V. SYPNIEWSKI, [REDACTED], Grand Rapids, telephone [REDACTED] was contacted. He advised he is a City Commissioner for the City of Grand Rapids and has been so employed for the last 13 years. He has been elected on a non-partisan ticket and does not have any direct party affiliation.

Mr. SYPNIEWSKI stated he has known Representative FORD for approximately 13 years. He characterized this relationship as being political and professional. He has had no contact with Representative FORD on a social basis during that time. He stated that the nature of their contacts over this 13 year period has related to city and county business, such as securing funding of federal monies for Grand Rapids city and area projects. He further characterized Representative FORD as being most responsive and professional throughout their contacts and a person who went out of his way to meet local and state needs.

Mr. SYPNIEWSKI also stated he had no derogatory information regarding Representative FORD and/or his family. He added that he does not know any of Representative FORD's political associates and/or administrative assistants and was unable to provide any information in this regard.

Mr. SYPNIEWSKI recalled that Representative FORD has a half brother, TOM FORD, whom he met when TOM FORD was a County Supervisor. He said he has the highest regard for both the Representative and his half brother, TOM FORD.

Mr. SYPNIEWSKI stated he would recommend Representative FORD unequivocally for any office; local, state or federal and believes that he would make an outstanding Vice President.

DE 161-1355

TJL/ltc:clc - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

PATRICK G. BARR, City Commissioner, Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, home residence [redacted], telephone number  
[redacted], stated that he has known Vice President appointee  
GERALD R. FORD on both a social and political basis since the  
late 1940's.

Mr. BARR stated that it is his personal judgment  
as well as that of most members of the community known to him  
that the appointee is an individual of the highest character  
and morals. Mr. BARR indicated that although he is of a  
different political party than appointee, he knows of nothing  
which would detract from his high integrity or cast any doubts  
on his loyalty to the nation. Mr. BARR has had various civic  
contacts with the appointee and members of his staff and knows  
of nothing which would reflect adversely on his ethics as an  
attorney or his qualifications as a public servant. Mr. BARR  
knows of no specific derogatory information regarding appointee's  
personal life or of his financial dealings.

Mr. BARR has no personal knowledge or any other  
information which would suggest that the appointee is biased  
or prejudicial in his position on civil rights matters.

b6  
b7C

DE 161-1355  
WTH/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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b7C

BUSINESS CONTACTS

Mr. JOSEPH R. GRASSIE was interviewed at the City-County Building, Grand Rapids, where he is employed as the City Manager. Mr. GRASSIE advised that he has known Appointee for approximately four years and his relationship with Appointee has been a business relationship. He advised that Appointee enjoys an excellent reputation and he knows of no derogatory information regarding Appointee in any of his business relationships. Mr. GRASSIE advised that Appointee's associates are reputable people and he further advised that Appointee has a high moral character. GRASSIE noted that Appointee to his knowledge is a very loyal and dedicated American who is extremely well qualified for the position of Vice President of the United States.

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D 161-1355  
CR/rlg - 1

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED], on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

PHILLIP RUZZO, Superintendent of Schools, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GUYARD FORD for about three years in a professional capacity because of RUZZO's position as a superintendent of the Grand Rapids School District. RUZZO advised he holds FORD in the highest regard and believes that FORD has a tremendous amount of ability and the highest ethics. RUZZO stated that he could not always agree with FORD's stands on political matters, particularly those which dealt with congressional approval of certain education bills. RUZZO advised that he believes it is not possible for a legislator to satisfy all interested groups by his voting record. RUZZO advised that he has never heard anything derogatory about FORD and would highly recommend him for any government position. In conclusion, RUZZO stated that he believes FORD to be an example of what most public officials should be.

DE 161-1355  
JEM/kc:clc - 1

GRANDVILLE CITY OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]:

On October 17, 1973, JOHN M. PRANGLEY, Mayor, Grandville, Michigan, residence 3186 Wilson Avenue, SW, Grandville, telephone number [REDACTED] advised that he has known Congressman FORD, the appointee, personally for the last five or six years. Mayor PRANGLEY stated that he has been happy with the manner in which appointee has conducted his business in every respect. When asked if he could comment regarding appointee's character, morals and loyalty, Mayor PRANGLEY said that they are of the highest caliber. Mayor PRANGLEY said that he was unaware of any unethical financial practices employed by the appointee and he was also unaware of any associates of appointee that may be deemed undesirable. He felt that appointee's views on civil rights represented those of his constituents and felt him to be an extremely fair man in regards to civil rights issues.

Mayor PRANGLEY was unable to make any comments regarding appointee's qualifications as an attorney.

In summary, Mayor PRANGLEY felt that no other man was better qualified to be nominated for Vice President of the United States than the appointee.

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DE 101-1355  
RCD:Jkd - 1

b6  
b7c

JUDICIARY

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Judge GORDON A. LOMERTY, 1st District Court, 333 Monroe, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known appointee for approximately ten years. He stated he does not know the appointee on a real personal basis, but that he has been with the appointee on approximately ten occasions.

Judge LOMERTY stated the appointee is a perfect gentleman and has an outstanding reputation, both in the community and as a Congressman. He stated the appointee is well versed and that he knows of no derogatory information concerning the appointee or any of his associates. He stated the appointee is a very fair individual of high moral character, and is sure he possesses all the qualifications to be the Vice President of the United States and maybe even to be President.

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DN 161-1355  
LGP:dkl - 1

JUDICIARY

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] AV at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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ALBERT S. KUHSE, 61st District Court Clerk,  
232 Monroe, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised  
he does not know the appointee on a real personal basis,  
but that he has known him for about 22 years. He stated  
he has been in many social and political functions with  
the appointee and that he has always conducted himself  
as a gentleman.

He stated the appointee has excellent qualifications  
to be the Vice President in that he is up on  
both foreign and national affairs. KUHSE stated the  
appointee is not a bona fide Republican and that he  
has always voted for the best man and he feels that  
the appointee has all the qualifications to be an ex-  
cellent Vice President.

He stated he knows of no derogatory information  
concerning the appointee or any of his associates, and  
stated that the appointee has an outstanding reputation  
in the community and he would recommend him for the  
position of Vice President of the United States.



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DE 161-1355  
RCD:dkd - 1

JUDICIARY

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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Judge PAUL A. WRIGHT, 61st District Court, 333 Monroe, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he is a personal friend of the appointee and that he has known him for approximately 20 years. Judge WRIGHT stated he worked for the appointee on his first campaign for Congress and stated the appointee has an outstanding reputation. He stated the appointee is a very qualified politician as well as being a very practical politician. He added that civil rights might not be the appointee's "bag", but that the appointee would always be very fair.

He stated the appointee is a Grand Rapids' boy and knows nothing derogatory concerning his moral character or any of his associates. He stated the appointee has been on the Board of Directors of the Old Kent Bank and the Rospatch Corporation, and that he resigned from both positions so there could be no possibility for any conflict of interest.

He stated the appointee also was a member of a local Grand Rapids law firm and he resigned this position for the same reason. He stated the appointee possesses all the qualifications to be the Vice President of the United States and he would recommend him highly for that position.

DETROIT CITY OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355  
AGB/pjw -1

b6  
b7C

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DETROIT

Mayor ROMAN S. GRIBBS furnished the following information to SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

He advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD personally for the past five years principally on dealings with him on legislative matters in Washington, D. C., and meeting him on various delegations of city mayors.

He stated that his dealings with him have only been on governmental matters. He advised that he is not of the same political party as Mr. FORD. He knows of him only as a congressman and knows of nothing derogatory concerning his character, reputation, loyalty or associates. He advised he knows nothing of his civil rights views except of what he reads in the press and knows nothing concerning Mr. FORD's financial matters. He advised that in all dealings with him, his character, reputation, associates and loyalty was unquestioned and he knows of nothing derogatory.

Mayor GRIBBS advised that from what he knows of GERALD R. FORD, he would recommend him without hesitation for a very high position of trust with the Government.

DE 161-1355  
BGK/pjf - 1

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DETROIT COMMON COUNCIL

MEL RAVITZ, President of the Detroit Common Council, Room 1340, City County Building, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, furnished the following information to SA [ ] on October 16, 1973:

Mr. RAVITZ stated he does not know GERALD FORD personally and cannot vouch for him one way or the other. He has no personal relationship with Mr. FORD. RAVITZ met Mr. FORD once or twice at formal dinners and has corresponded with him on many occasions on various issues concerning the City of Detroit.

Mr. RAVITZ stated he is not aware of any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD. RAVITZ advised he has no knowledge of FORD's views on civil rights and has no comments one way or the other on FORD's character, morals, associates, loyalty, qualifications as an attorney or financial background.

Mr. RAVITZ stated all he knows of GERALD FORD is that he has a positive public image and on this basis believes FORD to be qualified to be Vice-President of the United States and would recommend him for this position.

DE 161-1355  
RAM/KAB - 1

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b7c

DETROIT COMMON COUNCIL MEMBER

On October 16, 1973, the secretary to PHILLIP VAN ANTWERP, Detroit Common Council member, City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, advised SA [REDACTED] that VAN ANTWERP has recently undergone surgery for throat cancer and is unable to speak.

In view of his condition, it was recommended that he not be interviewed at this time regarding GERALD FORD.

DE 161-1355  
RAM/KAB - 1

DETROIT COMMON COUNCIL MEMBER

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on October  
16, 1973:

WILLIAM G. ROGELL, 15491 Warwick Road, Detroit, Michigan, Detroit Common Council member, City County Building, Detroit, advised that he met GERALD FORD about 20 years ago at some type of political function in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Since then, he has met FORD two or three times.

He seems to be a nice fellow and an intelligent person. ROGELL has always heard good things about FORD. ROGELL has never heard, nor does he know of any derogatory information concerning FORD's character, morals, associates, finances, loyalty, or views on civil rights. FORD is a "real American." The only thing he knows about FORD's finances is that his family is supposed to be wealthy.

Inasmuch as he does not personally know FORD, many of his observations are based on what he has heard. He does feel that FORD's nomination is "a hell of an appointment," but is not in a position to recommend FORD for the position of Vice-President as he does not know him that well.

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DE 161-1355  
BGK/lim - 1

DETROIT COMMON COUNCIL

Reverend DAVID EBERHARD, Common Councilman, City of Detroit, Room 1340, City County Building, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, furnished the following to SA [redacted] on October 16, 1973:

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Reverend EBERHARD stated he has known GERALD R. FORD for ten years on a political basis only. He would meet FORD throughout Michigan at various meetings and FORD always presented himself as "Mr. Clean" and as a very hard worker.

EBERHARD stated FORD never associated with people of poor reputation. FORD is of outstanding character, high morals, loyal to the United States, and EBERHARD stated he knew nothing whatsoever derogatory about GERALD FORD.

EBERHARD stated he has observed FORD at the last two national conventions and never observed any sign of immorality or drunkenness.

EBERHARD stated he knew nothing one way or the other about FORD's financial background or qualifications as an attorney.

EBERHARD stated he has never heard anything negative about GERALD FORD's views on civil rights but stated FORD does not champion civil rights causes.

EBERHARD stated FORD prides himself on his past football experience. FORD has always been receptive to any requests made to him concerning the City of Detroit. FORD has a very good memory for names and faces.

EBERHARD stated he would recommend FORD very highly for Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
BGK/lim - 1

b6  
b7C

DETROIT COMMON COUNCIL

CARL LEVIN, Common Councilman, City of Detroit, Room 1340, City County Building, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, furnished the following information to SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

LEVIN stated he does not know GERALD R. FORD and does not know anything derogatory about him. LEVIN stated he was not qualified to make any comment on FORD's character, morals, associates, loyalty, or qualifications as an attorney.

LEVIN stated he has the impression FORD is not a staunch supporter of civil rights legislation.

LEVIN stated GERALD FORD would not be his choice for Vice President of the United States solely on a political basis. LEVIN stated based on what he knows, if he was in the House of Representatives, he would vote to confirm FORD.



RELIGIOUS LEADERS

CAP:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]  
on October 16, 1973:

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b7C

Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids JOSEPH M. BREITENBECK, 265 Sheldon, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Telephone 459-4509, advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD for about three and a half years. During this time FORD would return to Grand Rapids to visit his family and would occasionally contact Bishop BREITENBECK. During these occasions when FORD was in town he would eat lunch with Mr. FORD. Bishop BREITENBECK advised that FORD never mentioned any of his cases or business which he was engaged in in Washington, D.C., nor did he mention any secrets which he may possess.

Bishop BREITENBECK advised that he considers FORD to be a trustworthy, ethical and loyal individual. He also stated that FORD's character and morals were beyond reproach.

DE 161-1355  
WSN/dmw - 1

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SAs [redacted] and [redacted] on October 16,  
1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

RELIGION

Father JAMES L. FELLOWS, Executive Assistant to the Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Pastor of St. Andrew's Cathedral, 265 Sheldon Street, SE, Grand Rapids, telephone number 459-4509, advised that he has been in the parish since 1960 and does not know the FORD family personally and knows Appointee only as a public figure.

He stated that Appointee has helped many people around town and he has never heard any derogatory about him.

He further stated that he has never heard any scandal regarding the man and knows FORD as a warm person. As for Appointee's trustworthiness is concerned, he really did not have any knowledge of that.

Father FELLOWS did not know of anyone in his parish who had anything against FORD and has never heard of any criticism of him.

DE 161-1355  
WAT:cp 1

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

Mr. ROY O. OSTENSON, Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, 1815 Hall Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] has been at the Grace Episcopal Church for approximately five years and is vaguely acquainted with FORD, but does not know him personally. He described FORD as having exceptional integrity and deep honesty and that the parish has "tremendous regard for his character." From what he could gather, FORD's reputation is "impeccable."

Most of FORD's associates are members of the parish and have furnished money for the church and FORD's campaigns.

His brothers, THOMAS and RICHARD FORD, are also communicants of the church.

FORD has a "bulldog loyalty to his convictions." OSTENSON stated that there were many in the church who did not agree with FORD's Vietnam policy, but FORD held to his convictions.

OSTENSON would "undoubtedly recommend" FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government. OSTENSON is not cognizant of any derogatory comments or rumored indiscretions regarding FORD. OSTENSON concluded that FORD has "... managed to maintain the image of an all-American boy," and that in view of his age, "... that is no small feat for that length of time."

DE 161-1355

WAT:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

Associate Rector CHARLES M. HAWES, Grace Episcopal Church, 1815 Hall Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] has never met FORD or been in his presence to his knowledge, but what he has heard from fellow parishioners was that FORD has an excellent character and he has heard "nothing but good" regarding FORD's reputation.

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b7C

Other than FORD's brother, RICHARD FORD, who is a member of the parish, and [redacted] a former Sunday School Teaching associate, HAWES is not acquainted with any of FORD's associates to his knowledge.

He has never heard any derogatory comments regarding FORD's loyalty, and when asked if he would recommend FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government, he commented that he is not in a position to make such a recommendation in that he is not sufficiently acquainted with FORD.

FORD was raised in this parish, pledges annual support to the parish, and formerly taught Sunday School with [redacted], who is currently an industrialist.

He heard from a Grand Rapids constituency that FORD is a "gentleman scholar and a marvelous Congressman," and that many of those from whom he has heard these comments were not even FORD's political associates or of the same political persuasion. In addition, FORD has been described as "fantastically responsive" to his constituency even by his opponents who have commented to HAWES of their "grudging admiration" in that they have written letters to FORD and have immediately thereafter received a response.

He has heard of no possible indiscretions other than those that have already been raised in the newspapers and those involved only political philosophies.

DE 161-1355  
WAT:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

Reverend WILLIAM P. BRINK, Denominational Stated Clerk (United States and Canada), Christian Reformed Church of America, 2850 Kalamazoo SE, telephone number 241-1691, Extension 84, advised that he met Mr. GERALD FORD several times and that FORD's Congressional Office has served them several times but he is not personally well acquainted with FORD. He stated he has been the Stated Clerk for approximately three years and has resided in Michigan since 1948. He added that their "... paths have crossed several times, but he (BRINK) is not intimately acquainted with FORD." Most of the comments he had regarding FORD were derived from information he obtained in conversation with his congregation. BRINK described FORD's character as stable and added that FORD is a "staid individual." He has not known any of FORD's associates personally. From discussion with his congregation, it appears that FORD has an excellent reputation and BRINK added that he has never heard any derogatory comments or rumors regarding FORD.

The only disagreement BRINK has heard were regarding political philosophies and were in no way connected with FORD's character and loyalty. From what he has heard BRINK stated that there has never been any expressed or implied doubt as to FORD's firm loyalty to the United States.

In view of BRINK's position, he will generally hear of any indiscretions regarding political figures from the Grand Rapids, area and has heard of none regarding FORD.

BRINK concluded that he would recommend FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government.

DE 161-1355

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DE 161-3355  
TLL:lto/dkd - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] SOVA at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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b7c

WILLIAM J. BODMAN, JR., Executive Representative, Broughton Memorial Hospital, Grand Rapids, Michigan, who resides at 2134 Shawnee Drive, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone 412-4567, stated that he has met Congressman Gordon L. Ford on several occasions in the past in connection with his duties as a hospital administrator. In addition, he has been present in Congressman Ford's office in reading room on one occasion and has met with him several times at various civic functions. On all these occasions, his contacts and conversations with Congressman Ford related to his medical or civic responsibilities to the community. He has never had a personal relationship with Mr. Ford and therefore, only knows of his reputation and background in a hearsay manner.

BODMAN stated that he has never heard of any specific instance of sexual or of any derogatory information relating to his qualifications as a physician or a public servant. BODMAN stated that Congressman Ford is considered by reputation to be a man of high morals and character. BODMAN is not familiar with members of Ford's family or his congressional staff and therefore, knows of no relatives or associates' activities which might reflect adversely on his reputation.

BODMAN considers Congressman Ford to be an excellent legislator for his district. On the specific issue of civil rights, BODMAN has a working knowledge which would indicate that Congressman Ford has not been published on this issue.



DE 161-1355  
TFS/vlm-1

BUSINESS ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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b7C

T.C. BLOODGOOD, JR., 2357 Academy Drive NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number GL-8-2623, Vice-President, Secretary - Treasurer, Rospatch Corporation, Grand Rapids, telephone number 451-3007, advised that he has known GERALD FORD personally since 1964, when he became a member of the Board of Directors at Rospatch Corporation. Mr. BLOODGOOD stated, however, that he knew GERALD FORD for the last 25 years. Mr. BLOODGOOD stated that his acquaintance with Mr. FORD has been of a business and political nature. When questioned concerning Mr. FORD's reputation as to sobriety, honesty, trustworthiness, reliability and discretion, Mr. BLOODGOOD maintained that these were all high, and that he knew of nothing on the part of GERALD FORD, which would detract from the above qualities. Mr. BLOODGOOD stated that he has never seen Mr. FORD under the influence of alcohol, and that he knows Mr. FORD does not drink to excess. Mr. BLOODGOOD maintained that it is noticeable that Mr. FORD drinks less than others at various functions that he has attended. Mr. BLOODGOOD further advised that he has been active politically in connections with the Republican Party in Grand Rapids. He stated that he does not think there is anyone more loyal to the United States and the constitutional form of Government. Mr. BLOODGOOD feels that Mr. FORD's allegiance to the United States is unquestionable.

Mr. BLOODGOOD stated that Mr. FORD never expressed any sympathy towards any foreign Governments or ideology as far as he knows. Mr. BLOODGOOD is not aware of any associations which GERALD FORD may have maintained as such. Mr. BLOODGOOD stated that both Democratic and Republican leaders, and labor leaders in the Grand Rapids area, all have faith in Mr. FORD's integrity and honesty. Mr. BLOODGOOD stated that he did not know of anything which might cause embarrassment to either Mr. FORD or the President.

DE 161-1355  
DAL:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted], on October 16, 1973:

Mr. JOHN CANEPA, President, Old Kent Bank, 1 Vandenberg Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD FORD for approximately three years but it has been strictly on a social basis and thus he does not know other than by reputation anything concerning Mr. FORD's professional life. Mr. CANEPA stated he knows of no derogatory information concerning FORD.

Mr. EDWARD J. FRY, President, Union Bank, 200 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD FORD for about forty years, both socially and politically and holds him in the highest regard. He stated he was a fellow student with FORD in undergraduate school and has maintained contact with him to the present, and thus, is in a good position to know him thoroughly. Mr. FRY characterized FORD as an extremely ethical man and further characterized him as a "work horse." He stated FORD is in good physical condition, has no past indiscretions, and would highly recommend him.

Mr. EDWIN BARNES, Chairman, Executive Committee, Michigan National Bank, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD FORD for twenty years socially and professionally. BARNES advised he knows of no derogatory information concerning FORD. He stated he knows of nothing underhanded in Mr. FORD's past nor any indiscretions in FORD's past. Mr. BARNES stated FORD is definitely a "NIXON man", having great loyalty to the President and present administration. He advised he would highly recommend him.

Mr. C. LINCOLN LINDERHOLM, President, Central Bank, 65 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD FORD for about 35 years socially, politically, and professionally. He stated he knows of no derogatory information concerning FORD, characterizing him as a man of great integrity, for whom he has the highest regard. He advised he has made political contributions to Mr. FORD and the Republican Party, however, all have been strictly in accordance with present policies. He stated the only incident concerning Mr. FORD that would be characterized as being somewhat foolish on FORD's part was that at one time about five years ago, he was asked to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Old Kent Bank,

DE 161-1355

DAL:cp 2

however, FORD realized this could be construed as a conflict of interest and therefore, did not accept the position at the bank. LINDERHOLM advised he would recommend him highly.

DAVID M. HOOGERHYDE, President, of Mutual Home Federal Savings, 88 Market NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and of the Michigan Savings and Loan League, advised he has known FORD for the past fifteen years, mostly in a professional association. He stated he has had little social contact with FORD and knows of no derogatory information.

ALLAN GOODMAN, Manager, Planning and Administration Services, Michigan Consolidated Gas, 200 Monroe SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has only known FORD by reputation and by token, having been present at speeches given by FORD. He stated he knows of no derogatory information concerning FORD.

DE 161-1355  
JHC/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [redacted] on October 16, 1973:

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b7C

Mr. LAURENCE E. HOWARD, Lawyer with Howard and Falkinburg, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed regarding GERALD R. FORD, JR. and provided the following information:

Mr. HOWARD stated that there was no question regarding Mr. FORD's honesty and experience. He stated that he did not agree politically with Mr. FORD's views, but he would describe Mr. FORD as an honest, friendly, likable individual. He stated that it was his opinion that Mr. FORD did what he felt was right and followed party lines in his political activities. Mr. HOWARD stated that he was a political adversary of Mr. FORD and he himself was a member of the Michigan Democratic party. Mr. HOWARD went on to state that it was his personal opinion that GERALD FORD was not intellectually suited for the position of Vice President of the United States, but he felt that the President of the United States was aware of Mr. FORD's credentials and suitability.

Mr. HOWARD concluded that based on his personal opinion, he would reserve recommending Mr. FORD. Mr. HOWARD did feel that there would be no derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD's character, loyalty and associates.

DE 161-1355  
JDG/sas -1

BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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Mr. MYRRIL COX, Plant Manager, Reynolds Metal Company, 1710 Porter, Southwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] was contacted at his office.

Mr. COX advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for the past three years, mainly in a business relationship, in dealings connected with the Grand Rapids City Chamber of Commerce. Mr. COX advised he believes the appointee to be of high moral character with unquestionable loyalty toward the United States. He stated he feels Mr. FORD has the highest integrity. Mr. COX advised the appointee is not an extremist in any way, and could be considered conservative. He added that he has no derogatory comments regarding the appointee and that he recommends him highly for the Office of Vice-President.

DE 161-1355  
DFM/WWM/emp - 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [ ] and [ ] at Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Efforts to contact President EDWARD N. COLE of General Motors Corporation was unsuccessful due to prior business commitments.

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b7C

ROBERT F. MAGILL, Vice President in charge of Industry and Government Relations, General Motors Corporation, home address [ ], telephone [ ] advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD four to five years through his position with General Motors and business related activities with the Federal Government. Throughout this period MAGILL knew of no unfavorable information regarding FORD's character or reputation. MAGILL found FORD's morals and associates to be above reproach and knew of no reason to question his loyalty.

MAGILL could not furnish any information regarding FORD's financial background but stated that he was a solid citizen, competent, reliable and of unquestionable integrity. He believed FORD had an objective view of justice towards Civil Rights and would highly recommend FORD for a position of trust with the United States Government.

DE 161-1355  
WTH/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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b7c

BUSINESS CONTACTS

RONALD DENHOF was interviewed at the Owen, Ames, Kimball Company, 300 Ionia, NW, Grand Rapids, where he is employed as the Project Engineer for the above company. Mr. DENHOF advised that he was the Project Coordinator for the construction of the building located in Grand Rapids. Mr. DENHOF advised that this construction was coordinated by himself and the General Services Administration. Mr. DENHOF advised that Appointee had no contact with him regarding this construction and Mr. DENHOF further noted that he has had no personal or social contact with Appointee throughout his life. Mr. DENHOF advised that he knows of no derogatory information regarding Appointee and he could not comment on Appointee's character, associates, reputation or loyalty to the United States Government in view of the fact that he has had no social or business contact with Appointee.

DE 161-1355  
LJM/ptm - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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b7C

H. B. SHAINÉ, President, H. B. Shaine, Incorporated, Waters Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed at his place of business. SHAINÉ has known GERALD FORD for 20 years on a social basis only. He has never conducted any business for or with GERALD FORD. SHAINÉ advised he is philosophically a Democrat thus opposed FORD in all political respects; however, on a character basis he is a very good friend and of sterling character.

SHAINÉ stated that FORD is very sincere in his public service and deserves to be a public servant on the basis of his character. He has exceptionally high morals and has no associates whose characters reflect low morals.

SHAINÉ knew of no financial dealings or problems that FORD had incurred that would in any way jeopardize his public position.

SHAINÉ stated that he has no evidence that FORD is opposed to civil rights; however, stated his voting record reflected he was against civil rights.

SHAINÉ did not know of one person who would have a bad word to say concerning FORD's character.



DE 161-1355  
WAT:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

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CLAIR M. DONOVAN, President, Continental Identification Products, Incorporated, 140 East Averill, Sparta, Michigan, 49345, telephone number 887-0011, and residing at 2360 Kent Boulevard, NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503, telephone number 454-0173, telephonically advised that he was an associate of FORD since the 1940s and for approximately 27 years. They taught Sunday School together at the Grace Episcopal Church, 1815 Hall SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

He described FORD's character as "spotless," and that he has never heard any derogatory comments regarding FORD's reputation.

He advised FORD's loyalty is above reproach and he would certainly recommend him for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government. He has heard no derogatory comments and he has heard of no rumored indiscretion regarding FORD.

He concluded that there are so few people as honest as FORD anymore.

DE 161-1355  
WAT:nar - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

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b7c

JORDAN SHEPHERD, residence [REDACTED] advised that he is President of Jordan Shepherd, Incorporated, a building contracting firm, 517 Ada Drive, Ada, Michigan, 49301, and that he is Vice President of the Kent Country Club. He has known FORD since 1950, but is not an intimate acquaintance of FORD's. SHEPHERD has done some repairs and remodeling authorized by FORD and has known FORD socially to some degree and has done business for his brothers. He commented that he knows FORD "...more by osmosis than direct". He has heard of no derogatory information regarding FORD's character which he described as excellent to his knowledge and described FORD's reputation also as excellent. SHEPHERD added that to his knowledge FORD has excellent associates and is not cognizant of any individuals with whom FORD has associated of questionable character. There is no question regarding FORD's loyalty to the United States. SHEPHERD has heard of no rumored indiscretions or derogatory comments other than alleged improprieties regarding certain campaign contributions which have previously been noted in the newspapers from which cognizance of the alleged improprieties was derived. From what SHEPHERD can determine certain funds allegedly funneled to the National Republican Committee and refunneled back to FORD, and that the act involves not an illegality but an impropriety. SHEPHERD added, however, that he has no firsthand information regarding the funds and further advised that he would recommend FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government.

DE 161-1355  
WAT/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

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JOHN ROTHWELL, Director of Customer Services, Grand Rapids Post Office, United States Postal Service, advised that he met FORD personally for the first time approximately three months ago and that prior to that meeting, he "ran into" FORD several times visually, but that he is not an intimate acquaintance.

FORD attended South High School and ROTHWELL attended Catholic Central High School and FORD was three years ahead of ROTHWELL. FORD has an excellent character and enjoys an excellent reputation. ROTHWELL indicated that he never heard anyone say anything derogatory about FORD and that FORD was a "stand-out" in high school.

He met GERALD R. FORD, JR. through United States Attorney JOHN MILANOWSKI and Monsignor JOSEPH C. WALLEN, St. Joseph Church, Conklin, Michigan, who is a good friend of FORD's and who leans toward the Democratic Party.

ROTHWELL is not acquainted with any of FORD's associates, but has never heard any derogatory comments regarding any of them.

When asked about FORD's loyalty to the United States, ROTHWELL commented that he assumed it was "tops" from what he had heard and that it was unquestionable. He would recommend FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government and has never heard of any derogatory comments or rumored indiscretions regarding FORD.

ROTHWELL concluded that there are many people in Grand Rapids, Michigan, that generally vote a straight Democratic ticket, but who voted for FORD as the only exception to their policy.

DE 161-1355  
WTJ/bjk - 1

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

Dr. W. B. VER MEULEN was contacted at 853 East Fulton, Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he has an office and is self-employed as a dentist.

He advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD, JR. for well over 30 years and he unequivocally recommends Mr. FORD for a position of trust and confidence with the United States Government.

He stated that GERALD FORD is a man of the upmost character, loyalty and reputation. Mr. VER MEULEN knows of no information in Mr. FORD's background of a derogatory nature, nor does he know of any information which could prove to be embarrassing to either Mr. FORD or the United States Government. He stated further that Mr. FORD prior to being employed with the United States Congress, cleaned up the rackets and underhanded dealings of the City Administration in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is considered to be completely honest.

Dr. VER MEULEN knows of no information of a derogatory nature concerning Mr. FORD's associates or morality.

DE 161-1355  
JHC/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [ ] on October 16, 1973:

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ROBERT W. DILLEY, Lawyer, Dilley and Dilley, 545 Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and provided the following information:

Mr. DILLEY stated that he has known GERALD R. FORD, JR. since 1946. He has known Mr. FORD socially and professionally. Mr. DILLEY stated that he has no reservations whatsoever and highly recommends Mr. FORD. Mr. DILLEY stated that there is no question whatsoever regarding Mr. FORD's loyalty to this country and personal associates. Mr. DILLEY described GERALD FORD as highly qualified, friendly and responsive to a high degree.

Mr. DILLEY stated that he is a Democrat and Mr. FORD is a Republican, and they are therefore not in agreement politically.

In conclusion, he stated that he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for a position of responsibility in the United States Government.

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b7C

NY 161-1355  
rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 16, 1973, at Southeast Grand Rapids, Michigan:

[redacted] Southeast Grand Rapids, advised she was a [redacted] from 1953 through 1957 and worked part time for him from 1957 until about the middle of 1959 at which time she resigned to take care of her family. [redacted] obtained the job with FORD through the Davenport Employment Office, Grand Rapids, while FORD was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

[redacted] described FORD as a tremendous, hard working, honest individual and would not question his character, morals, associates or loyalty in any way. FORD is concerned about all individuals, regardless of race, creed or national origin and has always been a supporter of civil rights. [redacted] had no derogatory information concerning FORD, was delighted he has been nominated for the Vice Presidency of the United States and does not know anyone who could be more qualified for the job than FORD.

[redacted] Southwest Grand Rapids, employed by Radder Advertising, 425 Cherry Street, Grand Rapids, advised she was [redacted] Grand Rapids, from August, 1965 until approximately June, 1969, and was employed [redacted] on a part-time basis at Grand Rapids from approximately June, 1969, until approximately April, 1972, at which time she began a full time employment with Radder Advertising. [redacted] described FORD as a dedicated, hard working, pleasant individual of high character and moral values, a loyal American citizen and whose associates are of the highest character. [redacted] advised FORD was always very respectful of anyone who came to see him whether they had an appointment or not and is very mindful of an individuals civil rights and has always been concerned to see that no ones civil rights have been violated in any way. [redacted] was very pleased that FORD has been nominated to the Vice Presidency of the United States and feels that he is highly qualified for this position and would not hesitate to recommend him for the Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JRC/tsd

On October 17, 1973, Mr. PAUL GOEBEL, 2310 Jefferson Drive, Southeast Grand Rapids, Michigan, former Regent of the University of Michigan from 1962 to 1971, and former Mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in regards to GERALD R. FORD, JR. Mr. GOEBEL stated he has known "JERRY" since he was a small boy in grade school in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He stated he was personally and socially acquainted with GERALD R. FORD, SR. and his family. He advised he has watched FORD's career develop through high school, college, law practice, and as a Congressman from the Fifth District of Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He stated he knows of no man who is more honest, trustworthy, dependable, hard working or devoted to his country than GERALD FORD.

Mr. GOEBEL advised he worked his way through college by working as a dishwasher and business manager in the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He stated FORD was an outstanding athlete as well as a good academic student. He advised FORD has been a lawyer in Grand Rapids for a period of years and although he has no personal knowledge of FORD's ability as an attorney, but he does know FORD was successful in his practice.

Mr. GOEBEL stated FORD and his family maintained an excellent character, reputation and loyalty to the United States. He advised FORD always associated with persons of like character and reputation, both in his college career as well as his professional and political career. He stated in the field of Civil Rights he has never known anyone who was more knowledgeable in this field than FORD. He stated FORD had no prejudices whatsoever.

Mr. GOEBEL stated during the period he was a Regent of the University of Michigan from 1962 to 1971, the Ford Paint Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan, never received any contracts from the university. He stated during the period of 1953 to 1963 the university had very strict rules on contracts for painting materials.

DE 161-1355  
JRC/sas

He stated GERALD FORD had no interest in the Ford Paint Company although it was operated by FORD's brother, TOM FORD. He advised the Ford Paint Company did not do much business and he is sure the company had no dealings with the university. He stated the Ford Paint Company subsequently went out of business. He stated he is sure GERALD FORD had no interest or influence with the Ford Paint Company.

Mr. GOEBEL advised he would highly recommend GERALD FORD, without any qualifications for the position of Vice-President of the United States.



DE 161-1355  
JRC/lim

AT ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

On October 17, 1973, Mr. GORDON CRAIG, President and Board Chairman, Booth Newspapers, Ann Arbor, advised as follows:

He represented his newspaper chain for Michigan in New York and Washington, D.C., something over 20 years ago when GERALD FORD was a freshman legislator. They became acquainted at that time and their wives discovered they had met as children. For the past 20 years, these two couples have been good friends, socially and professionally.

On a scale of one to one hundred, he rated their friendship at about 80 percent. He rated GERALD FORD and members of latter's family as all persons of high moral character and reputation and as outstanding United States citizens.

As a newspaper man, he said the only fault he found with GERALD FORD was his "tight-lip" habit and reputation. Even among editors who are personal friends, FORD has never been known to "leak" a story. He added that FORD's wife is even more "tight-lipped" than is FORD, if such is possible.

As a close observer, personally and professionally, he has never known GERALD FORD to improperly favor any newsman or any person or cause through use of official influence. He added that GERALD FORD has a wide reputation as unapproachable in such matters and as incorruptible.

GERALD FORD has always lived modestly and is a sincere, responsible family man. His personal associates of choice and those of his family, as known to him, are all persons of good moral character and reputation.

He said he has no personal knowledge of GERALD FORD's competence as a lawyer, but said he regards him as an outstanding legislator with a record of achievement for which he can be justly proud.

As a newspaper man with a state-wide news network in Michigan and as a close personal observer, he said he would be astounded if anyone could find any instance of dishonesty, immorality, or personal scandal affecting GERALD FORD or members of his family.

He said he would wholeheartedly recommend GERALD FORD for the position to which he has been nominated.

DE 161-1355  
JRC/srd

Mr. JOHN GORDON MC DONALD, President, Mc Donald Ice Cream Company, Ann Arbor, Michigan, advised October 17, 1973, as follows:

He was a class-mate and fellow Fraternity member at the University of Michigan with GERALD FORD during the period 1931-1934. They were closely associated at that time, and have had infrequent personal contact since that date.

He said he knew him to be a thoroughly likeable, sincere, hard-working, diligent scholar, and man of completely good character and reputation. Throughout his life, he has demonstrated the determination to excell to the fullest extent of his talents, in whatever pursuits he attempts.

He said he knew nothing of GERALD FORD's competence as an attorney, nor has he closely followed his "voting record" in the Congress. He said that from personal knowledge of the man, he is assured that GERALD FORD follows his conscience, and cannot be "bought" by any person or group. This high principal about the man, he said, is a guarantee that his integrity will always be maintained.

He recalled that GERALD FORD was "House Manager" of their fraternity, the Delta Kappa Epsilon, at the University of Michigan, during his senior year. He maintained the high respect of his associates during that period, and brought to the position the same "total committment", which has characterized his entire career.

He noted an unusual aspect of GERALD FORD's career, both in and out of government: He knew of no one in FORD's lifetime who could be called an enemy or serious antagonist. He has a faculty of a gentlemen's tolerance and sincere regard for those with whom he may disagree. As a consequence, he does not make enemies.

Mr. MC DONALD said he would without reservation wholeheartedly recommend GERALD FORD for the position to which he has been named.

DE 161-1355  
MPP/fln -1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Haven, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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Mrs. FRANK ALBERT (BERTHA) MEYER, 1903 Hillcrest, Grand Haven, Michigan, advised that her husband was the Administrative Assistant for Mr. GERALD FORD for seventeen and one-half years in Mr. FORD's Washington, D. C. office.

She stated that her husband FRANK passed away on August 25, 1972.

She stated that she has no information concerning the operation of Mr. FORD's Washington Office nor does she have any information concerning any donations to Mr. FORD's campaign funds as her husband made it a practice to never discuss office business with her.

Mrs. MEYER advised that she has known GERALD FORD for 25 years and due to her personal knowledge and her husband's daily contact with him, she believes GERALD FORD would be one of the most honest, hard-working leaders in Federal Government. She stated that she believes his personal integrity and honesty to be above reproach and she believes that he has a deep personal desire to serve his country to the best of his ability.

She stated that she has no knowledge of any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD or any member of his immediate family or political campaign assistants.

She stated that she is certain that there is nothing in his background which would cause embarrassment to the President or to the American people at any future date.

She advised that she believes that President NIXON made a very wise choice indeed in selecting GERALD FORD as a nominee for the office of Vice President.

PWH:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

WILLIAM E. JACKSON, Attorney, 600 McKay Towers,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, Telephone 458-3791, advised that  
he was not personally acquainted with the nominee. He  
said, however, that he had followed the nominee's  
career through the newspapers and felt him to be a man  
of great character who would make an excellent Vice  
President.

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U: 161-1355  
SUC/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

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FREDERICK MEIJER, President, Meijer, Incorporated, 2727 Walker, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD on a professional basis for approximately ten years. He has always considered FORD to be a very ethical person who is above reproach. MEIJER also advised that he has never contributed to any of FORD's campaigns, nor has he ever been asked for any type of contribution. He also advised that FORD has always been very interested in helping the business community of Grand Rapids, in any way that he could, but has never asked for any financial remuneration or other considerations for his services. MEIJER considers FORD to be an outstanding candidate for Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JMS/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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b7C

ROBERT I. THOLE, Manager, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, 43 South Division, Grand Rapids, advised that he has known the Appointee since 1966 and has been only a friend and acquaintance of the Appointee and not close personally or socially. Mr. THOLE advised, however, that in occasional contacts with Mr. THOLE, he has come to regard him as a person of high moral character and professional ethics with an excellent reputation in the community and a man of unquestioned ability and integrity. Mr. THOLE advised that Appointee speaks to the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids yearly and in addition to other casual meetings they have not been in contact professionally.

Mr. THOLE advised that he knows of nothing that would preclude the Appointee from assuming the highest positions in our government.

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DE 161-1355  
WAT/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

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JAMES M. BLANKENSHIP, Postmaster, Grand Rapids District, Central Region, United States Post Office, 225 Michigan, Northwest, Grand Rapids, met FORD only at several meetings, for example, savings bond drives, and is not an intimate acquaintance. BLANKENSHIP has been Postmaster since June 23, 1972, and has been in the Grand Rapids area since January 1, 1956. BLANKENSHIP has limited first-hand knowledge of GERALD R. FORD, JR., but from what he understands from discussions in the Grand Rapids area, FORD's character is beyond reproach and his reputation is excellent. He added that, "... even the Democrats don't say much bad about FORD around here."

BLANKENSHIP is not acquainted with any of FORD's associates, but indicated that he has not heard any derogatory information regarding any of his associates. As to FORD's loyalty, BLANKENSHIP commented, "... there couldn't be anybody more loyal and FORD is a true-blooded American." BLANKENSHIP would recommend FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government and added that he has heard no derogatory comments regarding FORD or even any rumored indiscretions. He concluded that FORD is a "... real asset to the community, and it is quite a great honor for Grand Rapids to have a man like that nominated for Vice President."

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DO 161-1355  
JWH/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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Mr. HAROLD SAMUEL SAWYER, President of Warner, Horcross and Judd, 900 Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, who resides at [redacted] Southeast Grand Rapids, Telephone [redacted], born [redacted] in San Francisco, California, was interviewed concerning his present and past association with GERALD FORD.

SAWYER advised that he has known FORD since 1948 on a casual personal basis and a casual business relationship. SAWYER first was in contact with FORD in 1948 when SAWYER was asked by FORD to join a committee of lawyers organized by FORD to gather information through legislative studies in Congress for the purpose of combating an incumbent Congressman by the name of EARL W. YOUNG. This committee existed for a period of one year and during this time a great deal of knowledge was developed for the purpose of defeating YOUNG in the following election and turned out to be successful. SAWYER advised that during his initial contacts with FORD through this committee he stated that FORD appeared to be a liberal Republican and gave the impression of being very politically ambitious. However, over the past years SAWYER has observed a definite move by FORD towards political conservatism.

SAWYER further advised that he believes that an individual by the name of JOHN R. STILES, also known as Jack Stiles, of Knapp Avenue, Grand Rapids, would be considered one of FORD's closest friends in the Grand Rapids area. He stated that STILES and FORD had worked together on the Warren Commission investigating the death of President KENNEDY. After the conclusion of this investigation by the Warren Commission, STILES and FORD wrote a book which was concerned with certain aspects of the Warren Commission and SAWYER believed that STILES would be able to provide a clearer evaluation of some of FORD's more recent political activities.



SAWYER described FORD as being exceedingly courteous and has maintained a demeanor for dignity in extremely trying situations and to the best of his knowledge he has not observed any dishonest activity or questionable attitudes displayed by FORD over his many years observing FORD. He described FORD as being the epitome "Mr. Clean" and has been the "Political Golden Boy" in the Grand Rapids area for many years. In his political and social spheres, SAWYER described the leadership capabilities of FORD as being a covert type leadership which he felt was very effective due to the fact that FORD never threatens or displays a pushy attitude towards his associates and to SAWYER's knowledge FORD's leadership in the long run is extremely effective. SAWYER further advised that he is president of the largest law firm in the Grand Rapids area and described the law firm as having a large coverage in the Grand Rapids area which gathers a great deal of information on various political and social interest throughout the area and at no time has he been able to observe any derogatory information concerning FORD. However, LAWSON DOCKER, an attorney employed by SAWYER's organization did bring to his attention, publicizing in the Grand Rapids local newspaper that FORD had received a political contribution of \$2,500 from the Michigan Bankers Association. This association was formed for the purpose of funneling financial assistance to political candidates in the Grand Rapids area. LAWSON DOCKER advised SAWYER that FORD, along with several other political candidates in the Grand Rapids area had received various sums of this association approximately three years ago, however, these contributions were brought out into the open and have been known to the general public for several years.

SAWYER stated that he has the highest regard for FORD and once again was unable to provide any derogatory information as to FORD's loyalty, morals, attitude towards civil rights, associations and subsequently recommended FORD highly for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
WFXK/srd/jbm - 1

BUSINESSMAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Detroit, Michigan:

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On October 17, 1973, Mr. CLAIRE GRIX, Assistant Director of Development and former Vice President of the Detroit Bank and Trust Company (retired after 41 years service), was contacted and advised that he has been, for almost fifty years, active in local Republican Party politics in the Detroit area. GRIX stated that he has met or worked for local Republican candidates and legislators during the above period and has on no occasion ever heard any derogatory information relating to GERALD FORD. GRIX stated that he met FORD on only one occasion, in 1969, during a pleasure trip to Washington, D. C., and with that exception has never had any personal contact with FORD. GRIX indicated that on the basis of FORD's good reputation in Michigan and long experience in the United States Congress, he would recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JWV/lcc -1

BUSINESSMEN

GEORGE A. PEARSON, President, Michigan National Bank, 600 Guardian Building, Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] and provided the following information:

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Mr. PEARSON advised that he does not know the Vice President appointee, GERALD R. FORD, personally, but knows of no reason why he could not be confirmed. He advised that he has heard nothing derogatory in reference to FORD's moral character, loyalty and associates.

Mr. PEARSON stated that he has worked in banking for 28 years and does not know of FORD's banking business. He added that FORD has not conducted any business with that bank.

Mr. PEARSON stated that he was aware that FORD had served briefly in some official capacity with a bank in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but resigned in a short time because of a possible conflict of interest.

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PE 161-1355  
JLM/cjn - 1

BUSINESSMEN

JOHN FRENCH, JR., Chairman of the Board, City National Bank, was interviewed at his executive office, City National Bank Building, 645 Griswold Street, Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED].

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Mr. FRENCH advised he has known Congressman GERALD FORD for approximately 25 years, not on a social or intimate basis, but through business such as banquets and speaking engagements.

He stated to his knowledge the City National Bank has never conducted any financial business with FORD.

He stated in his opinion the character, reputation, morals, associates, and loyalty of Mr. FORD are unquestionable. He believes Mr. FORD is qualified to be Vice President of the United States and so recommended him for this position.

DE 161-1355  
MJG/cb - 1

b6  
b7c

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, at Chrysler Corporation, 12000 Oakland, Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED]

L. TOWNSEND, Chairman of the Board of the above corporation, furnished the following information:

TOWNSEND advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD for approximately twenty-five years. The association has been on both a business and social level. The business affiliation has been based on the Chrysler corporate structure and the automobile industry. There have been no personal business dealings between the two men.

TOWNSEND has attended many social functions at which FORD was present, but does not consider himself to be a close personal friend. TOWNSEND has met Mrs. FORD on one occasion, but has had no other contact with the family.

TOWNSEND could furnish no derogatory information concerning FORD's associates, loyalty, morals or Civil Rights attitude. TOWNSEND also was unable to furnish any information concerning FORD's campaign finances.

TOWNSEND considers FORD to be of the highest character and an extremely qualified individual.

DE 161-1355  
JJP/cjn - 1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted on  
October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]:

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PAUL SAYLOR, Vice President, Trust Department, Manufacturers National Bank, 607 Shelby, Detroit, Michigan, advised that GERALD FORD does not have a commercial or trust account at Manufacturers National Bank. Mr. SAYLOR said he personally met Mr. FORD in Washington, D. C. in 1966 at a Gridiron Club dinner, but has had no contact with him since that time nor does he have any personal knowledge of FORD.

DE 161-1355  
JJP/cjn - 1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted on  
October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]:

JOHN COPELAND, Governmental Relations,  
Manufacturers National Bank, 151 West Fort Street,  
advised he has met GERALD FORD on several occasions  
but has no personal knowledge of FORD that he could  
comment on. He said he could think of no other individuals  
connected with the bank who would have personal  
knowledge or association with FORD.

DE 161-1355  
JWV/kfm - 1

BUSINESSMAN

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA :

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b7c

DAVID B. HARPER, President, First Independent National Bank of Detroit, 234 State Street, Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed at his place of business and gave the following information:

HARPER advised that he may have met GERALD R. FORD in 1972 but does not know him personally. HARPER advised that he once heard FORD discussed at a bankers' meeting and the speaker, whose name and bank are not recalled, spoke highly of FORD.

Mr. HARPER advised that he had never heard of any derogatory information about FORD in reference to FORD's associates, morals, loyalty, and business dealings.

Mr. HARPER advised that he has never heard any negative opinions in the Black community regarding FORD's stands and decisions on civil rights matters.

He concluded in saying he knew of no reason why FORD could not be confirmed as Vice President.



DE 161-1355  
JWV/cfc - 1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]:

Mr. C. BOYD STOCKMEYER, President, Detroit Bank and Trust, 211 West Fort, Detroit, Michigan, was contacted on October 17, 1973, and advised that he does not know the appointee GERALD R. FORD nor does he know of FORD's business or political transactions. He advised that any information he had would be hearsay and at that, he had never heard anything of a derogatory nature.

DE 161-1355  
WJC/dlc - 1

PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN

ROBERT M. SURDAM, Chairman of the Board, National Bank of Detroit, Woodward at Fort, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 225-2612, was contacted on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED], and he advised as follows:

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GERALD FORD, nominee for the office of Vice-President, has no account with his bank. Furthermore, the National Bank of Detroit has no information in any of their files with respect to FORD. SURDAM advised that he once met FORD at a function where the nominee was the principal speaker; however, he is not personally acquainted with the man and has no personal knowledge of FORD's background. Because of his limited knowledge, SURDAM declined to comment on the nomination or on FORD's qualifications. SURDAM advised that CHARLES FISHER, President of the National Bank of Detroit, was presently in Europe, and that JOSEPH CONWAY, Executive Vice-President of the bank, was in New York City for the day. SURDAM thought that neither FISHER nor CONWAY knew FORD.

DE 161-1355  
CTM/cfc:clc - 1

BUSINESSMEN

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], at Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

ARTHUR F. SNYDER, President, Bank of the Commonwealth, advised that he came to Michigan from Boston, Massachusetts, where he was employed with the New England Merchants Bank, approximately one year ago. He stated he has had no business contact with the appointee and does not know him personally. He knows nothing negative in the appointee's background and has heard second-hand that he is a fine person.

LABOR LEADERS

DE 161-1355  
PJC/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand  
Rapids, Michigan:

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b7C

ERNEST BALDINI, Business Representative, Plumbers  
and Steamfitters Local Union 70, 1064 Race Street, SE,  
advised that he has never had any personal or professional  
association with Appointee. BALDINI stated that he does  
not agree with Appointee's political philosophy but considers  
him to be an honest man of high integrity.

DE 161-1355  
PJC/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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b7c

JOHN R. VAN NOLLER, Building and Construction Trade  
Counsel, 1064 Race, NE, furnished the following information:

VAN NOLLER stated that he does not personally know  
Appointee but has dealt with him through his office on a  
number of union related matters. He also stated that he feels  
Appointee is anti-union and in the past has sided with the  
Associated Building Contractors, a non-union organization  
which VAN NOLLER stated is opposed to the hiring of recognized  
union members. He also stated that he has never voted for  
Appointee or has he supported Appointee's political philosophies.  
He has also considered Appointee to be a "yes" man for the  
Republican administration. He also stated that he has never  
heard anything regarding Appointee's honesty or integrity.  
VAN NOLLER stated that he only differs on his political  
philosophy.

DE 161-1355  
BLC/rlg - 1  
p/c

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16,  
1973:

THOMAS R. KIRKWOOD, President, Local 386, Dairy,  
Bakery and Food Workers Union, AFL-CIO, affiliate of Retail,  
Wholesale and Department Store Unions (RWDSU), 2047 Division  
Street, South, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known  
appointee for approximately 30 years. He advised the appointee  
is honest, of high moral character and unquestioned integrity.  
He stated that although he does not personally agree with the  
appointee's political attitude toward labor, he does have high  
personal regard and respect for the appointee and knows of  
nothing derogatory concerning him.

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DE 161-1355

BLC/rlg - 1

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JAMES L. KELLEY, Secretary Treasurer, General Teamsters Union, Local 406, 3315 Eastern Avenue, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known the appointee for about 20 years. He stated that he has complete faith in the honesty, integrity and character of the appointee and knows of absolutely nothing derogatory concerning the appointee. He related that although he does not necessarily agree with the politics of the appointee, he has high regards for the appointee and is extremely happy that he has been appointed as Vice President of the United States.



DE 161-1355

PJC: rlg 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

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OWEN BIEVER, Assistant Regional Director, United Auto Workers (UAW), 844 Beltline, Northeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished the following information:

BIEVER stated that he has known FORD since approximately 1948, when FORD first ran for U.S. Congressman. BIEVER stated that he does not feel that FORD is qualified to be President of the United States in the event of President NIXON's death, nor does he feel that he is an expert on foreign policy nor has he been subjected to serious pressures as are those brought upon individuals in high office. BIEVER stated he also feels FORD is a very intelligent man and will work very hard for the present administration. BIEVER also stated that as far as the UAW was concerned FORD had voted wrong approximately 80 % of the time on legislation concerning the country's welfare. BIEVER stated that he considered FORD a conservative, while the UAW might be termed as leaning toward the liberal political view.

BIEVER stated that approximately four years ago there was raised a question of a conflict of interest regarding FORD when he was elected to be a member of the Old Kent Board of Directors of Grand Rapids. Following some unfavorable publicity regarding this position, FORD resigned shortly after being appointed.

DE 161-1355  
PJC:rlg 2

In addition, BIEVER stated that there has been some question regarding FORD receiving campaign funds and that this matter has recently received publicity on the National scale.

In addition, BIEVER stated that he recalls an article in the "Detroit Free Press" several months ago which linked FORD with G. GORDON LIDDY, who is known to be one of the National operatives in the Watergate scandal. BIEVER believed this article stated that LIDDY was introduced to the inner White House circle by FORD. BIEVER stated he believed LIDDY had stayed in Detroit, Michigan, prior to his going to work in Washington, D. C., with the administration. BIEVER stated that he was the Kent County Democratic Chairman in 1965 and 1966.

DE 161-1355  
WLB/MDH/emp - 1

LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted by SAs  
[ ] and [ ]:

On October 17, 1973, Mr. SAM FISHMAN, Director,  
Michigan Community Action Program (CAP), United Auto Workers  
(UAW), 8000 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, telephone  
[ ] furnished the following information:

He is not personally acquainted with GERALD FORD;  
however, as Director of UAW-CAP, which is responsible for  
UAW interests relating to the political arena, he is aware  
of the record of FORD. He cannot say anything of a derogatory  
nature about FORD, whose reputation has been good. He knows  
nothing scandalous or scurrilous to report about FORD and has  
no reason to question his character, morals, associates or  
loyalty. The UAW representatives in Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
have a healthy respect for FORD, and he is considered to be a  
decent man. FORD voted in favor of most civil rights legisla-  
tion, and he could not be considered a die-hard segregationist.

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b7C

LABOR UNIONS:

TEAMSTERS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA WINSTON T. CHURCHILL on October 17, 1973, at Detroit,  
Michigan:

Mr. ROBERT HOLMES, International Vice-President,  
Teamsters Union, and President of the Teamsters Joint  
Council 43, 2741 Trumbull Avenue, Detroit, Michigan,  
telephone number 965-6150, which covers all Teamsters  
Unions in the State of Michigan, furnished the following  
information concerning United States Representative  
GERALD R. FORD:

Mr. HOLMES stated that he is not personally  
acquainted with Mr. FORD, however, he did recall that he  
met FORD at a cocktail party in Washington, D.C., in  
April of 1967.

Mr. HOLMES stated that this occasion was when  
a motorcade of Teamsters wives went to Washington, D.C.,  
for the purpose of calling on their respective Congressmen  
to determine what their views were on Social Security  
benefits, welfare, and minimum wages. After the  
Teamsters wives had completed their mission, the  
Teamsters sponsored a cocktail party at one of the large  
hotels in Washington, D.C., and all of the Representatives  
called on were invited to the party, and Mr. FORD was one  
of the Representatives who appeared.

Mr. HOLMES advised that he was introduced to Mr.  
FORD by an unrecalled person and no conversation took  
place to the best of his recollection between Mr. FORD  
and himself.

Mr. HOLMES stated that in his union capacity, he  
is also a member of the Teamsters Political Action  
Committee for the State of Michigan. Mr. HOLMES stated  
that in this connection, his political philosophy  
differs from that of Mr. FORD, and to the best of his  
knowledge, Mr. FORD has never done anything for the  
Teamsters or the labor movement.

DE 161-1355  
WTC/sas -2

Mr. HOLMES stated, in conclusion, that he does not know anything about Mr. FORD's character, morals, loyalty or associates, and he knows nothing derogatory about Mr. FORD. Mr. HOLMES advised that in his opinion, the selection of Mr. FORD for Vice-President was generally good.

DE 161-1355  
WLB/MDH/emp - 1

LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted by SAs  
[redacted] and [redacted]:

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On October 17, 1973, Mr. IRVING BLUESTONE, Vice President, United Auto Workers, and Director of the General Motors Division, 3000 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, telephone 926-5000, furnished the following information:

He does not personally know GERALD FORD and has never met him nor spoken to him. His knowledge of FORD was gained from the news media. He has never heard anything which would cause him to question the character, morals, associates or loyalty of FORD. He and FORD do not hold the same social or political views, and he would not vote for FORD. He considers FORD to be very, very conservative as concerns his voting record in support of various political legislation. The persons within the United Auto Workers who would be in a better position to furnish information about FORD are LEONARD WOODCOCK, DOUGLAS FRASER, RUSS LEACH and SAM FISHMAN.

DE 161-1355  
WLB/MDH/emp - 1

LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted by SAs  
[redacted] and [redacted]:

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b7C

On October 17, 1973, Mr. NELSON JACK EDWARDS, Vice President, United Auto Workers and Director of Parts Supplier Plants, 8000 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, telephone 926-5000, furnished the following information:

He has met GERALD FORD briefly on a few occasions, and his knowledge of FORD was obtained from FORD's congressional voting record and from the news media. He has no information which causes him to question the character, morals, associates or loyalty of FORD or which would suggest that Mr. FORD should be denied the honor of this appointment as Vice President of the United States.

As concerns civil rights, FORD's record does not indicate that he did a great deal for it or against it, and in his (EDWARDS') opinion, FORD should deneutralize himself and start doing things for civil rights. He feels that FORD is qualified enough to be Vice President and if necessary, in the absence of the President, he thinks FORD could govern the country, even though in his opinion there are several Democrats who are more qualified to hold the position.

Mr. EDWARDS recommended the interview of labor leader TOM TURNER, President, AFL-CIO, Detroit, Michigan, who may be familiar with Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
WLB/srd - 1

LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SAs [ ] and [ ]:

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b7C

On October 17, 1973, Mr. EMIL MAZEY, Secretary-Treasurer, UAW-CIO, 8000 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, (telephone 926-5000) furnished the following information:

He has met GERALD R. FORD several times over the years; however, it was generally a matter of meeting one another and shaking hands. He has never sat down and talked with FORD for even 15 or 20 minutes regarding any problems. He knows FORD from his voting record in Congress and his public statements on various issues.

He has no information which would cause him to question the character, morals, associates or loyalty of FORD; however, he questions certain of FORD's civil rights views. In this regard he questions FORD's involvement in the attempt to impeach WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, United States Supreme Court Justice. He considers this a "shoddy political trick" and feels that it was a counter-attack by certain congressmen who were upset by the rejection of the nominations of CARSWELL and HAINSWORTH to the United States Supreme Court. He feels that FORD "used poor judgement" in attacking DOUGLAS who he (MAZEY) considers to be a courageous man and a champion of civil liberties and the Bill of Rights. He also disagrees with the social philosophy of FORD, in connection with FORD leading the fight to uphold the veto of the President regarding minimum wage legislation. FORD is a conservative, and he (MAZEY) has a more liberal philosophy. He would not have selected FORD to be the Vice President, but he does not challenge the President's right to pick someone of his own philosophy. He does not consider there to be any difference between the philosophy of FORD and SPIRO AGNEW.



DE 161-1355  
WLB/srd - 2

The UAW is not mounting a campaign in opposition to the nomination of GERALD FORD to the office of Vice President. The UAW will not try to firm-up or oppose his nomination. If it was felt that FORD was not personally qualified for the position, the UAW would mount up a campaign against his nomination. The UAW did take such a position against the nominations of CARSWELL and HAINSWORTH.

LEONARD WOODCOCK, President, UAW-CIO, knows FORD better than any other UAW leader, and KEN ROBINSON, Director, as well as OWEN BIEBER, Assistant Director, UAW Region 1D, Grand Rapids, Michigan, are closely acquainted with FORD's activities in his home district and would be in a position to comment on his qualifications. ROBINSON is presently not in good health and is on extended sick leave; however, BIEBER would be available for interview.

DE 161-1355  
JHM/srd - 1

LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA(A) [ ] on October 17, 1973:

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OTTO WENDELL, Teamsters Union Legislative Representative (Michigan State Legislature) and a member of the Political Action Committee, Joint Council 43, Teamsters Union, 2741 Trumbull, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he has met GERALD FORD on several occasions in connection with motorcades of teamster union members' wives who went to Washington, D.C., in the early and middle 1960's when some of the women from Michigan's Fifth Congressional District visited FORD's office on Capitol Hill. He stated FORD was not responsive to labor, nor those areas of legislature which the union espoused, ie. minimum wage and social security and the only results of these meetings was the general comment that FORD was a nice guy. He stated FORD has a different political philosophy than that of the union. He advised that he could say nothing against FORD in that he did not know him, however, he felt that Senator ROBERT P. GRIFFIN would have been a better choice.

WENDELL stated that prior to the 1970 election the union had supported FORD politically but not financially in that there was no one in the opposition which they could support. He stated, however, in the 1970 and 1972 elections, the local chose to support FORD's opposition, Mrs. MC KEE, and did so.

WENDELL stated he knows of no derogatory information concerning FORD. He stated he has never known FORD socially and cannot comment on him in this respect.

DE 161-1355  
JJG/dlc

LABOR LEADERS

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

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GEORGE STRANDLOFF, Secretary-Treasurer, Teamsters Union, Teamsters Joint Council Number 43 and a member of the Political Action Committee of Joint Council Number 43, 2741 Trumbull, Detroit, Michigan, advised as follows:

He is not personally acquainted with Representative GERALD R. FORD and he has met Representative FORD only one time which was on the occasion of a cocktail party and dinner held in approximately April of 1967 at a Washington, D.C. Hotel. This cocktail party and dinner was sponsored by the Teamsters Union for the benefit of a delegation of Teamsters Union members wives from Grand Rapids, Michigan, a part of a Motorcade from the State of Michigan. The delegation of wives subsequently visited Representative FORD at his office for an expression of Mr. FORD's opinion on minimum wage, Social Security, and welfare legislation.

Mr. STRANDLOFF stated he could not express any opinion as to Representative FORD's character, morals, associates, loyalty, or civil rights views, as he does not know Mr. FORD.

He stated the selection of Representative FORD as the Vice-President nominee, in his opinion, is generally good under the circumstances.

Mr. STRANDLOFF said that to the best of his knowledge the Teamsters Union never backed Representative FORD, either politically or financially.

DE 161-1355  
HLB/lim - 1

LABOR LEADER

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

OLGA MADAR, Vice President, United Automobile Workers, telephone number 926-5275, was contacted and advised that she does not know GERALD R. FORD. She advised she has had no contact with him and does not know any information about him.

DE 161-1355  
PEE/KAB - 1

LABOR ATTORNEY

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

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b7C

WILLIAM M. ELLMANN, Labor Relations Attorney, 1800 Penobscot Building, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he was not personally acquainted with United States Congressman GERALD R. FORD and, therefore, was not in any position to comment regarding Congressman FORD's character, reputation, associates, and loyalty. Mr. ELLMANN stated his only source of information concerning Congressman FORD is what he reads in the newspapers.

DE 161-1355

PEE:jfd - 1

Labor Union Official

JOHN F. SCHREIER, Director, Region XI, Michigan-Wisconsin, AFL-CIO, was contacted on October 16, 1973, by SA PAUL EDWARD EIDEN at his residence, [REDACTED], Detroit, Michigan, and advised that he was not personally acquainted with Vice-President designate GERALD R. FORD. Mr. SCHREIER stated that he is not qualified to give an opinion of Congressman FORD's activities or associates. Mr. SCHREIER stated that Congressman FORD's labor record is "nothing to write home about"; however, he is not unhappy with the selection of Mr. FORD as Vice-President designate.

Mr. SCHREIER stated he recalled that about ten years ago, the UAW endorsed Congressman FORD for the United States Congress.

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b7c

DE 161-1355  
LCB/tsd - 1

LABOR ATTORNEYS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], in Detroit, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

BRUCE MILLER, Attorney, Miller, Klemist, Cohen,  
Martens, and Sugerman, 2460 First National Bank Building,  
telephone number 965-7540, home address [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED], Detroit, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED], was  
contacted regarding his knowledge of Vice-Presidential  
appointee GERALD R. FORD. MILLER stated that he does not  
know Congressman FORD personally. MILLER only knows FORD  
as "a public figure". MILLER did not feel qualified to  
comment regarding Congressman FORD's character or loyalty  
to the United States.

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b7c

DE 161-1355  
LCB/kpd -1

LABOR ATTORNEY

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] in Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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RICHARD CORDTZ, President of Local 79, Services Employees International Union, 2604 Fourth Avenue, telephone number 965-9450, was contacted regarding his knowledge of Vice-Presidential appointee GERALD R. FORD. CORDTZ advised that he does not know Congressman FORD personally. CORDTZ stated that he has met Congressman FORD on two separate occasions during the past five years; however, he felt sure that Congressman FORD would not recognize his name.



DE 161-1355  
LCB:jfd - 1

Labor Attorney

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] in Detroit, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

THEODORE SACKS, attorney, Morston, Sacks, O'Connell, Nunn, and Freid, 1000 Farmer Street, telephone number 965-3464, home address [ ] Oak Park, Michigan, telephone number [ ], was contacted regarding his association and knowledge of Vice-Presidential appointee, United States Representative GERALD FORD of Michigan. SACKS advised that he does not know GERALD FORD personally and has no basis for making any statement regarding FORD. SACKS believes that he is not qualified to give an opinion of FORD as his knowledge of FORD and his activities has either been read by SACKS or received "second hand".

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DE 161-1355  
LCB/kpd:MOS - 1

LABOR ATTORNEYS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] in Detroit, Michigan, on October 17,  
1973:

*Maurer*  
GEORGE M. MAURER, JR., Attorney, Zwerdling,  
Maurer, Diggs and Papp, 1600 First National Bank Building,  
telephone number 965-7090, home address, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], telephone number [REDACTED], was contacted  
regarding his knowledge of Vice-Presidential appointee  
GERALD R. FORD. MAURER advised that he does not know  
Congressman FORD personally. MAURER's only knowledge of  
Congressman FORD's activities is information that he has  
read in newspapers and magazines.

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DE 161-1355  
AW/fln/KAB - 1

PROMINENT MEMBER OF MINORITY GROUPS

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

Mr. MELVIN TARDY, President of the Local Branch  
of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored  
People, Post Office Box 2328, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
furnished the following information:

He advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD  
since 1964, after he, TARDY, became involved in the  
Office of Economic Opportunity Program in Grand Rapids.

He advised that he knows of no incidents where  
FORD's character was questioned. He advised that FORD  
is very loyal and that he knows of no questionable organizations  
to which FORD has belonged.

TARDY advised that he has more of a positive  
image than negative one of FORD and believes that he  
would be an asset to the country serving in the position  
of Vice-President.

DE 161-1355

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE  
MINORITY GROUPS

DE 161-1355  
WE/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

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b7C

ART ALVARADO, Assistant Director, Latin-American Council, 929 Grandville, Southwest, Grand Rapids, advised that he knows of Mr. FORD, but that he does not know him personally. ALVARADO stated that as Assistant Director of the Latin-American Council, he has had many occasions to correspond with Mr. FORD and to follow his activities with his constituency in Grand Rapids. He stated that the Latin-American Council is partially funded through the City of Grand Rapids and Model Cities Neighborhood Committee and that that organization was established to develop better rapport between the Latin-American community in Grand Rapids and the City Fathers.

ALVARADO stated that in his opinion GERALD FORD is a very intelligent and personable individual and that such a man is needed now to provide a buffer between the executive branch and legislative branch of the government. In his opinion, President NIXON has made a wise decision in choosing GERALD FORD to be Vice President. ALVARADO continued that FORD is aware of problems within the minority groups in the West Michigan area and that he has worked diligently and hard at establishing channels of communication between these minority groups and all phases of government.

It is ALVARADO's opinion that the Latin-American community within Grand Rapids is entirely for Mr. FORD in his new endeavor as Vice President of the United States. ALVARADO stated that FORD should make an exceptional man to fill the Presidency should that need arise during the next three years.

ALVARADO concluded by stating that he knows of no reason why GERALD FORD should not receive Congressional approval as Vice President.

DE 161-1355

TFS:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

Mr. EDWARD PIGEON, [REDACTED] Wyoming, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED] Director of Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council, 756 Bridge NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number 774-8331, advised that he has been Director of the Inter-Tribal Council since August 6, 1973. PIGEON stated that he has never had the opportunity to deal with Mr. GERALD FORD as he has only been Director of the Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council for a short time. He further advised that he does not personally know FORD. PIGEON stated, however, that as far as the Inter-Tribal Council is concerned, reaction to GERALD FORD has been favorable. He stated that FORD has been very helpful.

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b7C

DE 161-1355  
CER/kfm/mmr/KAB - 1

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE MINORITY GROUPS

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Detroit, Michigan:

On October 17, 1973, LONGWORTH QUINN, Editor-Publisher of the weekly newspaper "Michigan Chronicle" published in Detroit at 479 Ledyard Street, advised he had never met or had any personal association with Vice-President designate GERALD FORD. He also stated that neither in his capacity as a newspaperman or otherwise has he ever heard any derogatory information concerning FORD's integrity, patriotism, loyalty, or reputation.

AW:fln-1  
DE 161-T355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
on October 16, 1973:

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Mr. RAYMOND KELLY TARDY, Director of Kent  
Community Action Program, 550 Cherry Street, Southeast,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished the following information:

He advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD  
for approximately 13 years having first met him as a  
result of his forming a poverty program, Growth  
Achievement and Progress, in the black community in  
1962. He advised that Mr. FORD is an individual of good  
moral character, very honest and trustworthy. He  
advised that Mr. FORD is sensitive to the problems  
and needs of all the people and has an immense of  
credibility in this area. *needed*

He advised that he does not know about the  
drinking habits of Mr. FORD nor does he know any  
undesirables that he has associated with.

TARDY advised that he feels Mr. FORD is well  
qualified for the position of Vice President and believes  
that he will be an asset to the President.



DE 161-1355  
JLW:emp:lrc 1

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] on October 16, 1973:

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Judge GERALDINE B. FORD, Records Court,  
Detroit, Michigan, who resides at 1947 Hyde Park, Detroit,  
Michigan, telephone number [redacted] advised on October 16,  
1973 she does not know United States Congressman GERALD R.  
FORD nor does she know any of his associates. She continued  
by stating she has not heard any negative information  
concerning Congressman FORD and she has the impression  
that he is a very hard working Congressman.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DE 161-1355  
BJW/cjn - 1

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Detroit, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

Reverend NICHOLAS HOOD, President, Detroit City Council, City County Building, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he is not personally acquainted with GERALD R. FORD. He has met Mr. FORD on three or four occasions while in a group visiting Washington, D.C. He said he has no reason to doubt Mr. FORD's loyalty, character, and qualifications for the position to which he has been appointed. He has no objections to Mr. FORD's views on civil rights. He does not know any of Mr. FORD's associates or have any information about his qualifications as an attorney.

He said Mr. FORD, in his opinion, is a fine man, and he would have absolutely no objections to his being our next Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
DJM:jas - 1

PROBATE COURT JUDGE

Judge WILLIS F. WARD, Probate Court, Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan, who resides at 2900 East Jefferson, Apartment B-1, Detroit, telephone number WO 1-1449, advised on October 17, 1973, that he has known Congressman GERALD R. FORD since 1931, at which time they were both Freshman at the University of Michigan. Concerning FORD's character, he stated FORD is a very refined, cooperative, considerate, honest, and trustworthy individual. According to WARD, nothing has ever come to his attention which could be considered or construed as detrimental concerning FORD's morals.

Judge WARD pointed out that FORD comes from a very conservative section of the State of Michigan and believed that this fact is reflected in some of FORD's civil rights views, but according to WARD, these views are constructive and considerate views.

WARD commented that he knows of no one who is more loyal to his friends, associates, and his country. He stated he based this on his years of association and friendship since 1931.

Concerning his qualifications as an attorney, WARD commented that he has no knowledge that FORD ever practiced law or if he is a member of any bar association. He continued by stating that FORD was probably a B plus student at the University of Michigan and assumed he probably continued his excellent work in law school.

In closing, Judge WARD commented he knew of no one more qualified than Congressman FORD for the job he is being considered.

DE 161-1355  
JLW/KAB:cb - 1

PROMINENT MEMBER OF MINORITY GROUPS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973:

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b7C

Judge ROBERT L. EVANS, Recorders Court, Detroit, Michigan, who resides at [ ] Detroit, Michigan, telephone number [ ] advised on October 16, 1973, that he does not know United States Congressman GERALD R. FORD and could not furnish any information concerning the Congressman.

222  
10/16/73

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA THOMAS J. NALLY:

Mrs. CONSTANCE WILLIAMS, Executive Secretary, NAACP, Detroit, telephonically advised on October 16, 1973, that the Detroit Office of the NAACP had no official position on the designation of Mr. FORD, and that she could offer no comment. Mrs. WILLIAMS suggested that CLARENCE MITCHELL, Director, NAACP, Washington Bureau, knowledgeable in Congressional matters, be interviewed at 422 First Street SE, Washington, D. C.

*150 feet*  
Judge DONALD L. HOBSON, Common Pleas Court, Detroit, immediate past President of the Wolverine Bar Association, an association of Black attorneys, advised he was not personally acquainted with GERALD R. FORD and could not furnish any derogatory information concerning him. Judge HOBSON said that he generally agreed with Mr. FORD's construction of the Constitution; however, he disagreed with Mr. FORD's support in Congress of resolutions following the President's position limiting the busing of school children. Judge HOBSON said that on the subject of busing he favored the ruling of Judge ROTH in District Court, Detroit, and the ruling of the Circuit Court of Appeals, Cincinnati, Ohio, calling for school busing in the metropolitan area of Detroit. Judge HOBSON said he could not comment "negatively" on Mr. FORD and could not recommend him simply because of a lack of contact and knowledge.

SAMUEL L. SIMPSON, Register, Wayne County Juvenile Court and President, Wolverine Bar Association, an association of Black attorneys, advised that Mr. FORD had a low profile in Detroit and that for the most part Mr. FORD was on the national scene somewhat removed from Detroit personalities. Mr. SIMPSON said he was not acquainted with Mr. FORD and could furnish no pertinent information, except that he disagreed with Mr. FORD's support in Congress of measures restricting school busing. Mr. SIMPSON continued that he understood some blacks also believed that school busing should be restricted and on this issue alone he would not disapprove of Mr. FORD. Mr. SIMPSON concluded that he did not know Mr. FORD and could not comment further.

DE 161-1355  
TJN/pjw - 1

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA THOMAS J. NALLY on October 17, 1973:

LAWRENCE P. DOSS, Head, New Detroit Committee, an organization formed after the 1967 Detroit riot to quell civil unrest and build harmony, advised that formerly he had been the Assistant Collector of Internal Revenue in Detroit. Mr. DOSS said that he has met GERALD R. FORD on one occasion at a public rally. Mr. DOSS said that he never heard anything "negative" of Mr. FORD. He added he recognized that a man of unimpeachable integrity was required for the position of Vice President and he stated that he believed Mr. FORD would fill the bill. Also, Mr. DOSS pointed out that he was pleased that Mr. FORD was from Michigan in that perhaps he could help to further the interests of Michigan at Washington as Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
TJN/pjw - 1

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA

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b7C

Federal District Court Judge DAMON J. KEITH, 707 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, advised he has been acquainted with Congressman GERALD FORD over the past twelve years, having attended social and political functions with him, as well as following his political career. He said Mr. FORD was a very decent and honorable man, whose associates, character, morals and loyalty are beyond reproach. He said Mr. FORD's views on civil rights were acceptable to him, that any difference of opinion on this subject was honest. He stated he felt Mr. FORD was qualified for the position of Vice President, and that he gave his recommendation of Mr. FORD without reservation.

DE 161-1355  
DMC/dlc:clc - 1

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS

The following investigation was conducted by SA

[REDACTED]

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b7C

On October 16, 1973, ERNEST C. BROWNE, JR., Room 1340, City-County Building, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, member of the Common Council, City of Detroit, for the past three and one half years, advised that he is not personally associated with Congressman GERALD R. FORD, the Vice-Presidential appointee of the United States, but has had several contacts with him on behalf of the City of Detroit seeking Federal funds.

In regard to Federal revenue sharing, BROWNE described appointee as a "conservative" in his views as he, appointee, has sought a low level of Federal revenue sharing for major metropolitan areas.

BROWNE was not aware of appointee's political views on civil rights nor did he have any reason to question the character, morals and/or loyalty of the appointee. BROWNE had no reasons not to recommend appointee for the position of Vice-President of the United States.



DE 161-1355

NEWS MEDIA

DE 161-1355  
LCC/lcc - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

On October 16, 1973, SA [ ] inter-  
viewed A. WILLIAM HINDS, at 150 Michigan, Detroit, Michigan,  
telephone number 964-4000, extension 32, where he is employed  
as Editor of "The Detrouiter", a monthly Detroit Chamber of  
Commerce publication.

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HINDS does not know GERALD FORD personally, but  
according to friends of HINDS who know FORD, the nominee's  
character, loyalty, morals are unquestionable. HINDS does  
not know either personally or through hearsay any questionable  
information on the nominee.

DE 161-1355  
LCC/lcc - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

On October 16, 1973, SA [ ] conducted the following investigation:

DWIGHT HAVENS [ ] Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, telephone number [ ] was interviewed at the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, 150 Michigan, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 963-9520, where he is employed as the President and Publisher of "The Detroiter", a monthly Chamber of Commerce publication, advised the following:

HAVENS acknowledged knowing GERALD FORD, nominee for Vice President of the United States, personally, for eight years.

HAVENS said FORD was active in community affairs and described him as a "down to earth man, sensible and a common man's man." HAVENS advised that FORD's character, integrity, and morals are "impeccable". According to HAVENS, FORD associates with "fine people". HAVENS does not know either personally or hearsay of any derogatory information concerning FORD.

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b7c

DE 161-1355  
TBC/KAB - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

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CHARLES W. BELL, United Press International, Detroit Bureau Chief, 304 Commerce Building, Detroit, Michigan, was contacted and advised that he has met Congressman GERALD FORD only once and that was in 1969, when he was Bureau Chief in Rome, Italy. He stated that his conversation with FORD lasted for only a few minutes during a social activity that was held at the Embassy. BELL stated that he has only been back into the United States for approximately two months and is not at all able to comment on any of Mr. FORD's qualifications for the Office of the Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
MJG/kpd -1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] at WXYZ radio, 20777 West Ten Mile, Southfield, Michigan, (313) 444-1135:

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b7c

LOYALTY ✓  
JOSEPH VAUGHN, News Director for the above station, furnished the following information: VAUGHN advised that neither he nor any of his staff members have had any personal contact with GERALD R. FORD. VAUGHN, who has been news director for five years, stated that he has never received any derogatory information concerning FORD's associates, loyalties, morals, finances, competency, or civil rights actions. VAUGHN stated that the station often receives anonymous letters and calls concerning various politicians and their activities but that none have been received concerning FORD. ✓

DE 161-1355  
JWP/mam - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

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b7c

WILLIAM R. JAMES, General Manager, WJR Radio, 22nd floor, Fisher Building, Detroit, Michigan, telephone 875-4440, was interviewed and he could not furnish any information regarding GERALD R. FORD, the Presidential appointee.

Mr. JAMES stated that he has met Mr. FORD twice in the past two years while he was in Washington, D.C. and from those meetings could not form an opinion on his loyalty, morals, associates, character and other qualifications. He stated that the only information he has received regarding Mr. FORD has been from the various media, and based on that, Mr. FORD appears to be fully qualified for the appointment.

Mr. JAMES did not furnish any derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD.

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DE 161-1355  
BEE/kpd -1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SAs BRUCE E. ELLAVSKY and [REDACTED] at Pontiac, Michigan:

BILL MORGAN, Station Manager, WPON Radio, Huron Street, Pontiac, Michigan, was contacted at his place of employment at which time he advised that he has never met the appointee and is therefore not in a position to comment concerning him. He advised, however, that no derogatory information has been received by him or his station concerning the appointee.

DE 161-1355  
RBP/lim - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]:

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b7C

On October 16, 1973, Mr. LOUIS PRATO, News Director, WWJ-TV, was interviewed at his office, 622 Lafayette, Detroit, Michigan, concerning the background investigation of Mr. GERALD R. FORD and his fitness to be Vice President of the United States.

Mr. PRATO advised that he was acquainted with Mr. FORD on a strictly business basis and did not know Mr. FORD other than on a handshake basis a few times at different functions.

Mr. PRATO advised he had discussed Mr. FORD with some of his business associates at the time of the appointment, and they were very pleased.

Mr. PRATO stated that with the information at his disposal, he felt Mr. FORD was a good choice for Vice President and that he had not heard a derogatory thing about Mr. FORD, either about his professionalism, honesty, or his morality.



DE 161-1355  
RBP/kpd:clc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 16, 1973, at Dearborn, Michigan:

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b7c

Mr. JAMES BROOKER was interviewed at his office at 15001 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. Mr. BROOKER is the News Director of WNIC AM and FM Radio. It was explained to Mr. BROOKER that he was being contacted concerning the background of Mr. GERALD FORD and his appointment to be Vice-President of the United States.

Mr. BROOKER advised that he was not personally acquainted with Mr. FORD and knew him only by reputation. He advised that Mr. FORD enjoyed an impeccable reputation with all of those people with whom Mr. BROOKER came in contact.

Mr. BROOKER advised that he felt that Mr. FORD was highly qualified to hold the office to which he has been appointed.

DE 161-1355  
BEE/cfc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SAs BRUCE E. ELLAVSKY and  at Pontiac, Michigan:

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PHILLIP J. MEEK, Publisher, "Oakland Press", Pontiac, Michigan, and BRUCE MC INTYRE, Editor, "Oakland Press", Pontiac, Michigan, both advised that they had no personal contact with the appointee and therefore would not be in a position to comment concerning Mr. FORD. They advised, however, that NEIL J. MUNRO, Managing Editor, "Oakland Press", Pontiac, Michigan, was familiar with the appointee and might be able to provide further information in this matter.

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DE 161-1335  
RBP/sas -1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]

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b7c

Mr. JOSEPH FOSTER, WJL News Assignment editor, was contacted at his office at 322 Lafayette Street, Detroit, on October 16, 1973, concerning the background investigation of Mr. GERALD FORD's fitness to be the Vice-President of the United States.

Mr. FOSTER advised he did not know Mr. FORD personally, and as he had only within the last year moved to Michigan, he really had very little knowledge of Mr. FORD.

FOSTER did state that he only knew of Mr. FORD by reputation in the News Media and from a few people with whom he had worked and all indications were that Mr. FORD was a man of impeccable integrity and honesty, and felt he would be very qualified to be Vice-President.

DE 161-1355  
RBP/lcc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

b6  
b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]:

Mr. BRUCE D. ANDERSON, WWJ Radio News Supervisor, was interviewed at 622 Lafayette, Detroit, Michigan, on October 16, 1973, concerning the background investigation of Mr. GERALD FORD and his fitness to be Vice President of the United States.

Mr. ANDERSON advised that he had at one time been the political reporter for the WWJ stations and that in the performance of this job, he had crossed paths with Mr. FORD on several occasions but was not personally acquainted with him. Mr. ANDERSON stated that he had attended news conferences of Mr. FORD's, and it is only in a professional capacity that he has ever dealt with him.

Mr. ANDERSON stated that he had, of course, heard things from other news people concerning Mr. FORD on occasion, but he had never heard anything derogatory. He is of the opinion that everyone he has come in contact with who knew Mr. FORD thought he was a "super straight person" and a man of the highest moral and personal conviction. ANDERSON stated he felt, based on the information at his disposal, Mr. FORD was a fine choice and possibly the finest choice for the Vice President's position.

237

DE 161-1355

MJG/cb - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED] at WXYZ T.V., 20777 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan, phone (313) 444-1111.

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b7c

THOMAS ROSENBAUM, Assistant News Director and Assignment Editor for the above television station, furnished the following information:

ROSENBAUM advised that he has served in the above position for two years. During this time, he has had no personal contact with GERALD R. FORD, nor have any of his staff members. ROSENBAUM could furnish no derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD and added that his department has received no statements nor queries critical of Mr. FORD or his policies.

DE 161-1355  
LCC:MOS - 1

RADIO AND TV MEDIA

On October 16, 1973, SA [REDACTED]  
conducted the following investigation:

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b7c

PATRICK CANNON, 35114 Weideman, Mt. Clemmens, Michigan, telephone 791-2929, was interviewed at WBRB radio, 36724 Gratiot, Mt. Clemmens, Michigan, telephone 293-1430, where he is employed as Program Director.

CANNON advised that GERALD FORD, nominee for Vice President of the United States, was a good choice. CANNON advised that no derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD has come to his attention.

DE 161-1355  
LCC/clc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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b7c

LOWELL MC KIRGAN, Bureau Chief for U. S. News and World Report was interviewed at his office located at 1815 Fisher Building, telephone number 873-0100.

MC KIRGAN advised that he did not know GERALD FORD, appointee for Vice-President of the United States, personally and knows only what he has received through the news media. MC KIRGAN stated that he has not received any derogatory information concerning FORD.

DE 161-1355  
RBP/lim - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA [REDACTED]:

b6  
b7C

Mr. DINO IANNI, Station Manager of WNIC  
AM and FM, 15001 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, Michigan,  
was interviewed at his office on October 17, 1973,  
concerning Mr. GERALD R. FORD's appointment to be  
Vice President of the United States.

Mr. IANNI stated he had only recently moved  
to the Michigan area and had little knowledge of  
Mr. FORD. He stated he had not heard anything derogatory  
about Mr. FORD.



DE 161-1355  
JWP/lcc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA's [ ] and [ ] on October 17, 1973:

DAVE WHITE, News Director, WJR Radio, 22nd floor, Fisher Building, Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed regarding any information he might have concerning GERALD R. FORD and he furnished the following information:

WHITE stated that the only contact he has had with FORD was an interview he conducted five to six years ago, and based on that one interview, he could not provide any information regarding the qualifications of Mr. FORD for his Presidential appointment.

He also stated that since the news release of the appointment, he has inquired of his staff of any derogatory information they might have acquired regarding FORD, and their response was negative.

DE 161-1355  
MJG/mam - 1

RADIO AND TELEVISION MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Southfield, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

b6  
b7c

GEORGE SPERRY, Station Manager, WKBD-T.V., 26955  
West Eleven Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan, (313) 444-8500,  
furnished the following information:

SPERRY advised that he has had no contact with  
GERALD R. FORD. SPERRY advised that since the station is not  
a news station, it rarely comes into contact with politicians  
or major public figures. SPERRY could furnish no derogatory  
information concerning Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
MJG:MOS - 1

RADIO AND TV MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Southfield, Michigan, on  
October 16, 1973:

b6  
b7c

PHILLIP NYE, News Director, WXYZ-TV, 20777 West  
Ten Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan, (313) 444-1111,  
furnished the following information:

NYE advised that when he was a reporter for the  
above station during 1963 through 1968, he had contact  
with GERALD R. FORD. The relationship was a working one,  
and not social. NYE has had no contact with FORD since  
1968. During the working relationship, NYE considered  
Mr. FORD to be an honest, impartial and competent  
politician.

NYE also added that in his present position he  
is the first to hear any derogatory information concern-  
ing public figures in the Michigan area. NYE could not  
produce any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD's  
associates, loyalty, morals, campaign finances or civil  
rights actions. NYE summed up his impression of Mr. FORD  
by calling him an, "Extremely competent individual".

DE 161-1355  
LCC/cb - 1

RADIO and TV MEDIA

On October 16, 1973, SA [ ]  
conducted the following investigation:

FRANK LEE, 116 North Avenue, Mt. Clemens,  
Michigan, telephone [ ] was interviewed at WBRB  
radio, 36724 Gratiot, Mt. Clemens, Michigan, telephone  
293-1430, where he is employed as News Director.

LEE advised that GERALD FORD, nominee for  
Vice President of the United States, was a "fine man",  
but was unable to furnish any information concerning  
Mr. FORD's character, morals and integrity. LEE stated  
that no derogatory information has been received by him  
concerning Mr. FORD.

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WNA:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

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The following investigation was conducted  
by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

WERNER VEIT, Editor in Chief, Grand Rapids  
Press, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he could think  
of no derogatory information whatsoever regarding  
GERALD R. FORD's character, associates or reputation  
in the Grand Rapids area. VEIT added, in his personal  
opinion, FORD's honesty and integrity are beyond reproach  
and that he would highly recommend him for the job of  
Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
WE/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

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JOHN BANKSTON, Editor, "Grand Rapids Times", 246  
Wealthy Street, Southeast, Grand Rapids, advised that he is  
Editor and Chief of this small, weekly newspaper circulated  
mainly within the black communities in the West Michigan  
area.

BANKSTON stated that he has known GERALD FORD  
personally and as a friend during the last 23 years. He  
considers FORD to be a very human gentleman and has a  
feeling for all people regardless of their national  
or racial background.

He described GERALD FORD as being a very capable  
individual in all phases of government, stating that he should  
perform exceptionally well as Vice President of the United  
States and could easily act as President should the need  
arise. BANKSTON stated that he has written several favorable  
editorials on GERALD FORD over the years. He stated that  
he highly recommends him for his current appointment, stating  
that he believes President NIXON has made a wise choice.

BANKSTON concluded by stating that he believes  
GERALD FORD is completely racially unbiased and pointed to  
FORD's extensive work in establishing many minority civic  
and cultural organizations.

WNA:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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JOHN MC ELWEE, News Editor, Grand Rapids Press, advised on October 17, 1973, he could provide absolutely no derogatory information concerning GERALD R. FORD and in his opinion FORD is an excellent choice for Vice President of the United States during the next three years. MC ELWEE added that FORD's reputation and character are above reproach and that he is a credit to Michigan and the nation.

It is noted during the interview MC ELWEE conferred with several of his associates regarding any derogatory information they might have concerning FORD. All these individuals replied they could think of nothing whatsoever indicating FORD has been involved in any derogatory activities in the past.

WNA:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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DAVID W. NIOLETTE, Sr., City Editor, Grand Rapids Press, advised he has closely followed GERALD R. FORD's political career since he was elected to Congress in 1949. NIOLETTE advised in all these years, he cannot think of one derogatory incident involving FORD and that FORD is a highly respected member of the Grand Rapids community. NIOLETTE stated he does not question FORD's loyalty, character or associates and highly recommends him for the job of Vice President.

It is noted during the interview, NIOLETTE conferred with several members of the newspaper staff in an effort to produce any incident that could possibly be derogatory in nature regarding FORD. NIOLETTE concluded by stating the Grand Rapids Press has investigated FORD's public and private life for the past 20 years and has been unable to produce any derogatory information.



DE 161-1355  
JS/lcc - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

On October 16, 1973, SA [ ] interviewed MARTIN S. HAYDEN, Vice President and Editor, "The Detroit News", a daily newspaper published at Detroit, Michigan.

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HAYDEN advised he first became associated with GERALD FORD approximately 40 years ago. At that time FORD was an undergraduate student and football player at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and he, HAYDEN, was a sports writer with the "Detroit News".

HAYDEN stated he and FORD did not become closely associated until 1948, at which time he was transferred to the News Washington Bureau and FORD began serving his first term as a Michigan Congressman from Grand Rapids. HAYDEN stated he remained with the News Washington Bureau until 1958, and during those 10 years he was in frequent contact with FORD regarding stories which would arise in the course of the daily business of Congress.

HAYDEN stated he considered his association with FORD to be on a regular reporter-representative basis and that they subsequently became personal friends. He stated he visited the FORD residence on many occasions during his tenure in Washington.

HAYDEN advised his association with, and knowledge of, FORD was totally devoid of any unfavorable information. He stated this would cover all areas of FORD's life. He stated he considered FORD a good, solid politician and a completely loyal American.

HAYDEN advised he was well acquainted with FORD's wife and recalled meeting the FORD children on many occasions. However, because of the passage of two years, he has lost contact with the children and was unable to comment concerning them.

HAYDEN advised he had never come into possession of any unfavorable information concerning FORD's business dealings or campaign financing.

HAYDEN advised FORD was a highly qualified, capable and experienced Congressman, and he considered his selection as Vice President an excellent choice. HAYDEN stated that he personally would highly recommend FORD.

DE 161-1355

JS/lcc - 2

HAYDEN stated that approximately four years ago FORD was mentioned in a paperback book entitled "Washington Payoff" by ROBERT WINTER-BERGER. HAYDEN stated the book concerned lobbying in the nation's Capitol. HAYDEN stated he was unable to furnish any information concerning FORD's name being mentioned in the book.

DE 161-1355  
JS/lcc - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

On October 16, 1973, SA [ ] interviewed PETER B. CLARK, President and Publisher. "The Detroit News", Detroit, Michigan, a resident at [ ] Michigan.

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CLARK advised he first met GERALD FORD in 1961, at a social function, the annual Gridiron Banquet in Washington, D.C. It is one of the few occasions during the year that he is in the company of FORD. Over the years since their first meeting, he has been at social functions where FORD was in attendance. He stated he has also been in attendance at social and business functions held in Detroit on infrequent occasions throughout the years, however, most of his association with FORD has been in Washington.

CLARK advised he was not an intimate associate or contact of FORD.

CLARK stated he was absolutely unaware of any derogatory information concerning any facet of FORD's personal, moral, social, business or political life. He stated he had no reason whatsoever to question his loyalty to the United States. He stated that to the best of his knowledge, FORD was in excellent health.

He stated he possessed no information whatsoever concerning FORD's business dealings. He stated he had met FORD's wife in 1961, and she has accompanied her husband at functions he has attended over the years. He stated he has never heard anything derogatory concerning her.

CLARK advised he considered FORD eminently qualified to conduct the affairs of the office of the Vice President. He said FORD is acutely aware of the issues concerning the United States, both domestically and abroad. He stated he considered FORD a well-balanced individual in regard to these issues and consequently is very competent and capable to deal properly with them.

CLARK stated he did not possess any information concerning campaign financing for FORD.

DE 161-1355  
JS/lcc - 2

CLARK stated he was very personally pleased with the selection of FORD as Vice President, and he strongly recommended him.

CLARK stated that approximately three or four years ago a paperback book was published concerning lobbyists in Washington, D.C. He stated FORD was mentioned in the book, however, he was unable to recall the nature or details concerning this aspect of the book. CLARK was unable to recall the author of the book.

DE 161-1355  
LCC/clc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

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ED REINGOLD, Bureau Chief for Time Magazine was interviewed at his office located at 1510 Fisher Building, telephone TR 5-1212.

REINGOLD advised that other than reading what was in the newspaper, he could furnish no background information on GERALD FORD, nominee for Vice-President of the United States. REINGOLD noted that in journalistic circles, FORD was considered "bland" that is not creative. REINGOLD has not been in receipt of any derogatory information concerning FORD.

DE 161-1355  
SK/lk:cb - 1

LOU GORDON T.V. SHOW

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The following investigation was conducted by  
Supervisor [ ] at Detroit, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

✓ LOUIS J. GORDON, Host of the Lou Gordon Show, WKBD TV (Channel 50), Southfield, Michigan, telephonically contacted the FBI office, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. GORDON stated that his secretary had been contacted by Special Agents of the Detroit Office regarding an interview concerning Representative GERALD R. FORD, Appointee to the position of Vice President of the United States. GORDON advised that he did not wish to be interviewed and that the only information he had at his disposal was information of public knowledge which he obtained from the news media. He stated he did not wish to add any additional comments at this time and stated he had no personal knowledge of any other activities on the part of Mr. FORD, other than that which has appeared in general circulation in the various news media in the past.

GORDON stated that he appreciated the FBI's concern in this matter and stated that he regretted not being able to furnish any more information of value.

DE 161-1355

CR:MOS - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Birmingham, Michigan:

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On October 16, 1973, MIKE MARCELLINO, Managing Editor, "Birmingham Eccentric", a weekly newspaper published in Birmingham, Michigan, and concerned solely with local news, advised he had had only one personal contact with GERALD FORD which was at a news conference in 1963 or 1964 at Gainesville, Ohio, when MARCELLINO was associated with the "Gainesville Telegraph". He said his completely favorable impression of Mr. FORD obtained at that time had continued to the present and that he had never heard or observed "even a whisper" of any question concerning Mr. FORD's integrity, his patriotism and loyalty, character and reputation, his competency as a lawyer and legislator, or any information whatsoever of a derogatory nature concerning him. MARCELLINO stated he had never met and possessed no information concerning members of Mr. FORD's family.

DE 161-1355  
RBP/cjn:clc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted at Detroit, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED], on October 16, 1973:

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Mr. PETER KAISER, Sales Manager, WWJ Television, was contacted at the office of DONALD F. DE GROOT, General Manager of the WWJ Television and AM and FM Radio Stations. Mr. KAISER advised that he had known the appointee for many years. He had called on the appointee's father as a paint salesman. Mr. KAISER advised that he had known the appointee's brothers better than the appointee, as Mr. FORD was already in Congress at that time.

Mr. KAISER further advised that the appointee had purchased radio time from him while he was employed as a time sales representative for a radio station in the Grand Rapids area. KAISER advised that in all of his dealings with the appointee, he had found the appointee to be a person of the highest quality and would certainly feel that he was qualified for the job of Vice President of the United States.

Mr. KAISER also stated that even the appointee's opponents had a difficult time finding a candidate to run against appointee in political campaigns. KAISER said he felt appointee was an "upstanding and super straight type person".

Mr. KAISER stated that he had no personal knowledge of the appointee's fund raising activity and had heard nothing derogatory concerning the appointee or his family.



DE 161-1355  
LCC/clc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Detroit, Michigan:

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JAMES JONES, Detroit Bureau Chief of Newsweek Magazine was interviewed at his office located at 321 West Lafayette, telephone number WO 2-4833.

*DEVOTELY*  
JONES acknowledged knowing GERALD R. FORD in a business capacity, since 1957. JONES described FORD as a "dedicated family man, loyal and devotly interested in his constituents and as possessing impeccable morals, integrity, character and loyalty to the United States".

JONES was unaware of any questionable act or actions in FORD's background. According to JONES, FORD's associates are respectable people. JONES further described FORD as a "bland" politician; that is, not very creative, however, JONES noted that if a problem existed and FORD was aware of it, he (FORD) would take appropriate action to rectify it.

DE 161-1355  
CR:MOS - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA :

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AT ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN:

On October 16, 1973, GRANT HOWELL, Editor, "The Daily Tribune", a daily newspaper published in Royal Oak, Michigan, advised that although he had attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Michigan, during the mid-1930s when Vice Presidential appointee GERALD FORD attended, he had no recollection whatsoever concerning FORD at that time. Subsequently, in his capacity as a newsman, he has had occasion to meet FORD on several occasions, the last time at a social affair in Washington, D.C., about 1968 or 1969. He noted that at this affair, Mr. FORD had conducted himself in a completely exemplary manner. HOWELL further stated that he had never heard or observed any question concerning Mr. FORD's integrity, his patriotism and loyalty, character and reputation, his competency as a lawyer and legislator, or any information whatsoever of a derogatory nature concerning him. HOWELL stated he had never met and possessed no information concerning members of Mr. FORD's family.

DE 161-1355

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

Mr. HARVY GRACE, the owner, News Editor and Producer of WIID Radio Station, 32500 Park Lane, Garden City, Michigan, advised on October 16, 1973, that he did not know Mr. GERALD FORD personally, only by reputation. He has never had any contact with the man, either professionally or socially. He had no derogatory information concerning the appointee. He has not contributed to any campaign fund of Mr. FORD's. Mr. GRACE would neither recommend nor criticize the appointee.

DE 161-1355

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

Mrs. JAYCE HAGELTHORN, Editor, Dearborn Press, and Dearborn Heights Press, 14510 Michigan, Dearborn, Michigan, advised that she has met GERALD FORD only once and that was at a social function. She personally holds the appointee in high esteem, stating that he is impressive and friendly. Mrs. HAGELTHORN knew of no derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD. She advised that the paper has no derogatory information on Mr. FORD nor has it received any.

DE 161-1355  
LCC:MOS - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

On October 16, 1973, SA [ ]  
conducted the following investigation:

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ROBERT LIENERT, Box 42, New Baltimore, Michigan, was interviewed at "Automotive News", 965 East Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, telephone 963-9520, where he is employed as the Managing Editor.

LIENERT advised that GERALD FORD, nominee for the Vice President of the United States, was unknown to him professionally and that he has not heard any derogatory information concerning FORD.

DE 161-1355  
LCC/lcc - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

On October 16, 1973, SA [ ] conducted the following investigation:

KEITH CRAIN, [ ]  
Michigan, telephone number [ ], was interviewed at "Automotive News", 965 East Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 963-9520, where he is employed as the President and Publisher of the weekly publication.

CRAIN advised that GERALD FORD, the nominee for Vice President of the United States is unknown to him. CRAIN acknowledged that all he knows of FORD is what he reads in the newspaper. CRAIN stated that no derogatory information has been received by him concerning FORD.

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DE 161-1355  
RXL/mam - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Southfield, Michigan:

On August 17, 1973, LAWRENCE N. CARINO, Vice President, Storer Broadcasting and General Manager of WJBK, number 2 Storer Building, Southfield, Michigan, business telephone 557-9000, home telephone [ ], advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for approximately eight years mainly through his contact with him in Washington, D.C. CARINO advised that during that time he has known Mr. FORD to be a person with highest of morals and a person with outstanding character. CARINO stated he pictures Mr. FORD as a middle of the roader concerning Civil Rights and felt he was extremely qualified for the position of Vice President. CARINO advised he knew of nothing derogatory concerning Mr. FORD other than what he read in the paper concerning an \$11,000.00 campaign donation which he received but supposedly gave to some Congressional committee. CARINO advised this was all in a news article concerning Mr. FORD.

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DE 161-1355  
RBP/pjf - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA [ ]  
[ ] on October 16, 1973:

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DONALD F. DE GROOT, the General Manager of the WWJ stations, was interviewed at his office in the WWJ building at 622 Lafayette Building, Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. DE GROOT advised he knows Mr. GERALD FORD only casually for about the last ten years but that their relationship was not a very close one. Mr. DE GROOT stated that he and Mr. FORD had many common friends and speaking acquaintances but that he could not be considered a close friend.

Mr. DE GROOT advised he knew nothing derogatory about Mr. FORD, and that those people whom he knew who knew Mr. FORD thought only very highly of him.



DE 161-1355  
RXL/emp - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], at Southfield, Michigan:

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On October 17, 1973, CARL E. CEDERBURG, T.V. News Director, Number 2 Storer Place, Southfield, Michigan, business telephone 557-9000, home telephone [REDACTED] advised he knows GERALD R. FORD only through meeting him occasionally at the annual dinner for the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. CEDERBURG advised that he knows of nothing derogatory concerning Mr. FORD and could only give him the highest recommendation concerning his character and morals. CEDERBURG advised he knows nothing other than what he got from the press concerning Mr. FORD's involvement in Civil Rights. CEDERBURG stated he felt Mr. FORD was fully qualified to be Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
JWV/emp - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]:

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FRANK ANGELO, Associate Executive Editor, "Detroit Free Press", Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed at his place of employment on October 16, 1973, and gave the following information:

ANGELO advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD for approximately 15 years and known him personally but not intimately. He advised that he knows of no reason why FORD could not be appointed Vice President of the United States.

ANGELO advised that he feels FORD would be a solid, hard working, and decent individual. He finds FORD to be basically honest, and easy to approach. He believes FORD to be very loyal, of good moral character, and knows of nothing derogatory in reference to FORD's associates, campaign practices, and business dealings. When dealing with civil rights matters, ANGELO would expect FORD to be fair and candid.

DE 161-1355  
JWV/lcc - 1

NEWSPAPER AND PUBLICATION EXECUTIVES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ]:

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DAVID B. COOPER, Associate Editor, "Detroit Free Press", a newspaper published daily at Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed at his place of employment on October 16, 1973. COOPER advised the following:

✓ COOPER advised that he is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and his family has known the GERALD R. FORD family for years. He advised that he has met FORD on two or three occasions but does not know him personally. COOPER advised that he knows of no reasons why FORD could not be approved as Vice President of the United States. He believes FORD to be very loyal, of good moral character, and knows of nothing derogatory in reference to FORD's association. COOPER feels that FORD would handle civil rights matters in a "progressive and upright manner".

COOPER stated that FORD's record is without previously known blemishes with respect to campaign expenses and business dealings. He stated that he feels FORD has fully explained his failure to report \$11,500.00 in campaign contributions and feels that FORD showed good judgment in resigning the Grand Rapids, Michigan, bank directorship and thus avoiding a possible accusation of conflict of interest.

DE 161-1355  
JWP/RSF/dlc - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

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Mr. H. Y. LEVINSON, Station Manager, WCAR Radio, 18900 James Couzens, Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed regarding his knowledge of Presidential appointee, GERALD R. FORD, and he furnished the following information:

Mr. LEVINSON stated that he does not know Mr. FORD, either personally or professionally.

During the interview, he could not provide any derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD. ✓

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DE 161-1355  
JWP/RSF/sas -1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted on  
October 17, 1973, by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]:

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CARL COMO, Vice-President and General Manager,  
WDRQ Radio, 15933 West Eight Mile Road, Detroit, Michigan,  
advised that he has been in his present position for approximately  
one year since the recent acquisition of the broadcasting  
company.

Mr. COMO stated that he does not know GERALD R.  
FORD, the Presidential appointee for Vice-President, either  
professionally or personally. He also stated that the only  
knowledge he had of Mr. FORD was what he learned through  
the media, and that none of that was derogatory.

DE 161-1355  
TBC/tsd -1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973:

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Mr. BILL SCHULTZ, News Editor, Associated Press, Detroit Bureau, was telephonically contacted for the purpose of setting up an appointment for an interview, at which time he advised that he would be leaving town in approximately 30 minutes and would be away two weeks. SCHULTZ stated that he would not be available for interview in person and wished to speak on the telephone and advised as follows:

SCHULTZ stated that he has five men from Associated Press working in Grand Rapids, Michigan, around the clock since Friday, October 12, 1973, in an attempt to uncover derogatory information concerning Congressman GERALD FORD. No derogatory information has been uncovered to date and they have labeled Congressman FORD as "Mr. Clean". SCHULTZ stated that he has never met Congressman FORD and knows him only through news accounts and would therefore not be qualified to comment on the appointee's character, morality, loyalty, or associates. SCHULTZ stated that the only possibly questionable information that was uncovered by his bureau concerned information which is already public knowledge through a RALPH NADER report which indicated that during the 1972 campaign, FORD received campaign donations in excess of the legal limit totaling \$11,000.00. These monies were turned over by FORD to the National Republican Committee and were not used in his personal campaign. SCHULTZ stated that it is his personal belief that the Congressman violated the spirit but not the letter of the law in his actions.

SCHULTZ in conclusion stated that his investigation proved through his personal participation that there is no reason why Congressman FORD should not be confirmed as Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
RBP:jas - 1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] in Detroit, Michigan:

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NESTOR (Nat) A. SIBBOLD, Station Manager for WWJ AM and FM and SAMUEL STEPHENS, Sales Research for WWJ, were interviewed on October 16, 1973, concerning the selection and appointment of Mr. GERALD R. FORD to be Vice President of the United States.

Mr. STEPHENS stated he was not acquainted with Mr. FORD and only knew what the media said about him. He stated that he had no knowledge of any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD.

Mr. SIBBOLD advised he did not know Mr. FORD personally and he and some of his colleagues felt from what knowledge they had of Mr. FORD he was highly qualified and as fine a choice for the Vice President as could be found.

Mr. SIBBOLD stated he had no knowledge of anything derogatory concerning Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
DLB/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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LEE M. WOODRUFF, 2044 Lakepoint Drive, SE, Grand Rapids, advised that he is the retired editor of the "Grand Rapids Press" since 1966. He advised that in connection with the newspaper employment he became well acquainted with Appointee but does not regard himself as a close personal friend. He advised that he still sees him occasionally when he visits Washington, D. C., and stated he also sees him on occasion at parties but has never been to his home. He stated that as far as he is concerned Appointee is particularly honest, is loyal to the United States, and he knows of nothing at all suspicious in his background that should be held against him in consideration for employment with the Federal Government. He advised he was well acquainted with Appointee's father and stated he was an extremely honest person also. He stated he knew of the family of Appointee's wife and never heard anything derogatory about them. He stated he would gladly recommend Appointee for a position of trust with the Government and thinks he is an excellent selection for appointment to the Vice President position.



DE 161-1355

EDUCATORS

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DE 161-1355  
BAM:dkd - 1

EDUCATOR

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

CLIFFORD WORDEN, Executive Director, Michigan Educational Association, 3578 Alpine, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished the following information:

WORDEN stated that he first met GERALD FORD on August 28, 1970, at a breakfast sponsored by the Michigan Educational Association, during which Mr. FORD attended as the guest speaker. WORDEN stated that the purpose of the breakfast was to enable Mr. FORD to become acquainted with local educational administrators so that problems and needed changes in the teaching profession could be brought to his attention. He stated that he considered this breakfast to be a public affairs activity and it enabled him to converse with Mr. FORD on educational subjects as well as political matters. WORDEN also stated that he had one additional contact with Mr. FORD, but this contact did not enable him to engage Mr. FORD in any conversation.

WORDEN described Mr. FORD as a straight-forward, candid, and easy-going individual who seemed to possess a great deal of basic fortitude and integrity. He also stated that he greatly admired the interest which Mr. FORD displayed when responding to the problems of his constituents in the Grand Rapids area.

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DE 161-1355  
BAH:dkd - 2

When asked if he would recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States, WORDEN responded no. He commented that he believes there are other Republicans who possess more intellectual vigor and more intellectual stamina than Mr. FORD. He further advised that he feels that there are a number of individuals with better credentials than Mr. FORD, and who also have more stamina and the ability to stand up for what they believe and not to bend to the wishes of the Republican party. WORDEN stated that these beliefs were obtained primarily from his contact with Mr. FORD on August 28, 1970, and from material and facts he has both read and listened to in newspapers and through the mass media.

WORDEN also commented that he believes Mr. FORD is a party line politician who would give in to party demands rather than stand up for what he actually thought may be beneficial to a particular organization or section of people.

WORDEN also stated that he is a former member of the Democratic party and leans towards that party as opposed to the Republican party. He also commented that although he has a great deal of respect for Mr. FORD, he believes there are a number of Republicans available who have better credentials than Mr. FORD and who would be better suited for the position of Vice President.

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DE 161-1355  
PJS/sas -1

EDUCATORS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], on October 17, 1973:

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B. JAMES GEORGE, JR., Dean, Wayne State University Law School, advised that he is not personally acquainted with GERALD R. FORD.

Dean GEORGE stated that although he does not personally know Mr. FORD, he is nevertheless well acquainted with Mr. FORD's reputation, both professionally and personally. Dean GEORGE stated that he has heard nothing but the highest praise for Mr. FORD and knows of no derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD's character, morals, associates, loyalty to the country and views on civil rights.

Dean GEORGE stated that he knew of no reason why Mr. FORD would not make an outstanding Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
PJS/sas -1

INDICATORS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], on October 17, 1973:

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b7c

GEORGE GULLEN, President, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD on a professional basis for approximately twenty years.

Mr. GULLEN stated that he has served on several committees with FORD and has nothing but the highest respect for his professional abilities as an attorney and politician.

Mr. GULLEN stated he feels FORD would be fair and impartial in the field of civil rights and has no doubts about FORD's loyalty to the United States of America. Mr. GULLEN further stated that he has the utmost respect for FORD's character, morals and associates and he wholeheartedly recommends Mr. FORD for his appointment as Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
WFKK/MOS:cb - 1

EDUCATORS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan:

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On October 17, 1973, Dr. JAMES W. WOODRUFF, Provost, was contacted at the University of Detroit, and he advised that he has never had any personal contact with GERALD FORD, but in terms of "practical politics" considers Mr. FORD a wise and qualified choice for Vice President of the United States. WOODRUFF indicated that, in his view, Mr. FORD is a conservative Republican who probably has never done anything substantial to further the civil rights movement in the country, but that he, WOODRUFF, had no specific criticisms of Mr. FORD in that regard. WOODRUFF indicated that despite the fact that he has never met Mr. FORD, he considers him a good choice and would recommend him. WOODRUFF also remarked that he has over the past several years met numerous Congressmen in Washington, D.C., while there on university business and has never heard any derogatory information concerning GERALD FORD there or in the State of Michigan.

DE 161-1355  
RWK/pjw -1

EDUCATORS

The following investigation was conducted on  
October 16, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]:

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JAMES HUDDLESTON, Associate Dean, Detroit College of Law (DCL), 136 Elizabeth Street, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he does not personally know GERALD FORD, but that by reputation he believes him to be of the highest integrity. Dean HUDDLESTON stated that Mr. FORD is unknown to any faculty members at DCL with the exception of former Dean CHARLES H. KING.

CHARLES H. KING, Dean Emeritus of DCL, advised that he is acquainted with GERALD FORD, but has had very little association with him. Dean KING is unaware of and has never heard of any information which could reflect unfavorably on Mr. FORD. Dean KING stated that Mr. FORD last contacted him last year regarding a Grand Rapids, Michigan constituent who was seeking admission to DCL. Mr. FORD asked Dean KING to see if Dean KING could assist. However, Dean KING stated that at no time did Mr. FORD attempt to pressure him in any way. Dean KING was unable to remember the name of the student.

Mr. JOHN ABBOTT, Dean, DCL, advised that he is not acquainted with GERALD FORD and is unaware of anything about him other than public source information from the news media.

DE 161-1355

EJB:jas - 1

EDUCATOR

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Rochester, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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Doctor DONALD D. O'DOWD, President, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, was contacted at his office on the university campus in order to obtain any information which he might have concerning appointee GERALD R. FORD. Doctor O'DOWD advised he has no personal knowledge of the appointee, as his only knowledge concerning Mr. FORD has been obtained through the mass media. Doctor O'DOWD stated that in view of the above he does not feel qualified to comment in any way concerning the appointee.



DE 161-1355  
RR/lim/cel - 1

EDUCATORS

The following investigation was conducted by SA

[REDACTED]:

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On October 16, 1973, Mr. JOHN DIMITRY, President, Macomb County Community College, South Campus, 14500 12 Mile Road, Warren, Michigan, advised he does not know Mr. GERALD FORD. He stated he has never met Mr. FORD and has no personal knowledge concerning him.

Mr. DIMITRY advised his knowledge of Mr. FORD consists only of what he has read in the newspaper. He also stated he has not followed Mr. FORD's career and knew nothing derogatory about him.

Mr. DIMITRY stated he knew Mr. FORD's half brother THOMAS FORD, a former member of the Michigan House of Representatives who was a man of excellent reputation. He stated he can only assume that Mr. GERALD R. FORD is also a man of good reputation.

He further advised he knew of no one at the college who may have any additional information or personal knowledge of Mr. GERALD R. FORD.

DE 161-1355  
WFXK:MOS - 1

EDUCATORS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], at Detroit, Michigan:

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On October 16, 1973, Reverend MALCOLM CARRON, S.J., President, University of Detroit, was contacted and advised that he has met briefly with GERALD R. FORD, on university business, approximately two or three times during the past three or four years. CARRON stated that while Mr. FORD has been a long-time proponent of "private education", he has never taken any particular action which directly benefited the University of Detroit. CARRON stated he has no knowledge whatever of Mr. FORD's business or financial matters, views on civil rights, or other official or personal affairs. CARRON indicated he is not aware of any derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD and that on the basis of his limited contact with Mr. FORD he views Mr. FORD as eminently qualified to serve as Vice President of the United States and recommends him for that position.

DE 161-1355  
WFYK:MOS - 1

EDUCATORS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan:

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On October 16, 1973, Mr. RICHARD BRAUN, Dean, University of Detroit School of Law, was contacted and advised he has never met GERALD R. FORD and that his knowledge of Mr. FORD is strictly limited to what he has "read in the newspapers" concerning Mr. FORD. As a result of his limited knowledge of Mr. FORD, BRAUN declined to offer any views concerning Mr. FORD's professional, official, business or personal affairs.

DE 161-1355  
WFXK/srd - 1

EDUCATOR

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA :

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On October 17, 1973, Doctor TIBOR PAYZ, Professor of Political Science, was contacted and advised that, during 27 years at the University of Detroit, he has been involved with several Michigan and United States legislators developing programs of study at the University but has never had any personal or professional contact with GERALD FORD; however, PAYZ stated that as a result of his contact with other legislators and what study he has done in his field, he, PAYZ, has never heard any derogatory information regarding FORD and considers him well qualified to be Vice President of the United States. As a result of his limited experience with FORD, PAYZ could provide no other information.

DE 161-1355

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

DE 161-1355

WE:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

[redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he is familiar with activities in the Latvian Community in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area. [redacted] is employed [redacted] on the East Grand Rapids, Michigan, Police Department. He stated that he is personally familiar with the appointee since he acted as co-pilot on many of the shuttle runs during the years 1964-1965, transporting GERALD FORD between Washington and Grand Rapids, Michigan. [redacted] stated that he does not know FORD on a social basis but stated that his brief contacts with him during these shuttle runs were most pleasant, and reflected only favorably on the appointee.

[redacted] stated that he knows FORD to be of the highest moral standards, a sober individual, and summed up FORD's general demeanor as being that of a very outstanding and forthright representative of the people in Western, Michigan.

He stated that he has no reason not to believe that FORD would make an excellent Vice-President of the United States.

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JHC:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted  
by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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RICHARD J. ANDERSON, United States Probation  
Office, Western District of Michigan, Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, advised that he is not familiar with GERALD  
R. FORD nor is he aware of anything derogatory in his  
background.

DE 161-1355  
EWK/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

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Chief of Police ROBERT ANDERSON, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he knows GERALD R. FORD, JR. personally and professionally for about ten years. ANDERSON stated he believes Mr. FORD to be a highly qualified individual for any United States Government position. Chief ANDERSON stated he has been a policeman in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for approximately 25 years and has known Mr. FORD's reputation as a Congressman for at least that long. Chief ANDERSON advised that in all his 25 years associated with police work, he has never heard any derogatory information about Mr. FORD on a professional or a personal basis.

Chief ANDERSON stated he would have no reservation whatsoever about recommending Mr. FORD for the very highest of Government appointments. Chief ANDERSON stated Mr. FORD has always supported law enforcement and law enforcement programs in Congress and Mr. FORD's office has always answered questions placed before them by the Grand Rapids Police Department. ANDERSON stated GERALD R. FORD, JR.'s personality and posture toward his duties as a Representative of the people is as good or better than any other person representing the constituency of the United States.



DE 161-1355  
EWK/bjk - 1

b6  
b7c

The following investigation was conducted at Stanton, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

THOMAS BARNWELL, Sheriff, Montcalm County Sheriff's Office, Stanton, Michigan, a member of the Republican party, advised that he knows GERALD R. FORD, JR. personally and professionally for about five years. BARNWELL stated he has seen and talked to Mr. FORD at various law enforcement and Republican party political rallies and has always been highly impressed with Mr. FORD's abilities, enthusiasm and high moral character.

BARNWELL advised Mr. FORD has always been a strong advocate of law enforcement legislation in Congress and has always shown himself to be a fine gentleman. BARNWELL stated that he believes Mr. FORD to be a very competent individual and holds him in the highest personal and professional regard. BARNWELL advised he recommends Mr. FORD for any high government position without reservations.

DE 161-1355  
EWK/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Ionia, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

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Detective EARL WENTWORTH, Acting Sheriff, Ionia County Sheriff's Office, Ionia, Michigan, advised that Sheriff GARY O. NEWTON, Ionia County Sheriff's Office, is currently on annual leave and will not be returning to Ionia for at least two more weeks. WENTWORTH advised that he has known Representative GERALD R. FORD, JR. for approximately ten years and that Sheriff NEWTON has known Representative FORD for approximately 25 years as a Republican party member and as a law enforcement officer.

WENTWORTH stated that he could state unequivocally that FORD is qualified for any high government position and that neither himself or Sheriff NEWTON has ever heard any derogatory information regarding GERALD R. FORD, JR. WENTWORTH advised that Mr. FORD's office has always been extremely cooperative and helpful in handling matters referred to it by the Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

WENTWORTH stated that he believes Mr. FORD to have high ethics and an extremely high moral character. WENTWORTH advised that Mr. FORD has a reputation as being a person with the highest integrity and a man who always has the best interest of his constituency in mind. WENTWORTH stated he would recommend GERALD R. FORD, JR. for any government position to which he might be appointed.

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DE 161-1355

AWK/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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b7c

Sheriff ROY PARSONS, Kent County Sheriff's Office, a member of the Republican Party, advised he has known CLAUDE W. FORD since PARSONS days in high school. PARSONS stated he believes FORD to be an extremely qualified individual and an outstanding candidate for any high government position. PARSONS stated he would highly recommend FORD for any position which he might secure in the United States Government. PARSONS advised he has known FORD both personally and professionally for 24 years and in all that time he has never heard one disparaging remark about FORD, either professionally or in his personal life. PARSONS stated he was always impressed with FORD's record of support of law enforcement legislation in the United States Congress and further stated that FORD's office has always been extremely cooperative in handling inquiries sent to it by the Kent County Sheriff's Department. In conclusion, PARSONS advised he could not think of a more qualified, ethical or competent man to be selected for a high position in the United States Government.

JHC:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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MARVIN G. WASHINGTON, United States Marshal, Western District of Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and provided the following information regarding GERALD R. FORD:

Mr. WASHINGTON stated that he has known FORD professionally for approximately the last six years. He indicated that Mr. FORD personally assisted him in securing position of United States Marshal. He described FORD as an honest, amiable individual who takes his own initiative and is responsive to his constituents.

Mr. WASHINGTON further added that he has not heard nor is he aware of any derogatory information in Mr. FORD's background.

Mr. WASHINGTON further stated that he is a Republican but that Mr. FORD, in his responsiveness to the people of Grand Rapids area, does not follow explicit party lines. Mr. WASHINGTON stated that he has no knowledge of FORD's personal background but feels that he is highly qualified and would highly recommend him for a position he is being appointed to.

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DA 161-1355

SKK/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,

Michigan:

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b7c

Chief WILLIAM JOHNSON, Head Security Officer, Grand Valley State College, Allendale, Michigan, - former Chief of Police for Grand Rapids, Michigan, stated that he has known GERALD FORD on a personal and professional level for the last 25 years. JOHNSON stated that in all his years of law enforcement with the Grand Rapids Police Department he had never heard anything derogatory about FORD, private or professional life. In addition, JOHNSON advised he believes FORD to be highly qualified for any high government position. JOHNSON stated that FORD has always been known around the Grand Rapids area as a representative who supported important and needed law enforcement legislation. JOHNSON advised FORD has always personally taken a great interest in public affairs at Grand Rapids and could always be counted on to be receptive to the needs of his constituents. JOHNSON advised he could not say enough good comments about FORD's ability and desire to genuinely meet the needs of the people of the United States.

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DA 161-1355  
WJ/rig - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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RENDALL J. HICKMAN, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Kent County, Michigan, advised that he has been an acquaintance of GERALD FORD for approximately ten years. HICKMAN advised that he first met FORD when he was working in the Chief of Naval Operations Office, Washington, D.C. HICKMAN advised that it was FORD who recommended that he attempt to obtain a job with the Kent County Prosecutor's Office. HICKMAN advised that in his opinion FORD is a man of the highest character and morals. HICKMAN advised that FORD is a loyal American citizen and enjoys an outstanding reputation in the community.

HICKMAN advised that GERALD FORD has always been a man who has upheld the constitutional and civil rights of the people of the United States.

HICKMAN stated that to the best of his knowledge, FORD has always run a clean and honest election in his 25 years in Congress.

HICKMAN advised that he feels as if FORD is a very able and competent individual and that he would most certainly recommend him for any position of trust and responsibility in the United States Government.

DE 161-1355  
AGB/KAB - 1

WAYNE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

WILLIAM L. CAHALAN, Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, furnished the following information to SA [ ] on October 17, 1973:

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Mr. CAHALAN advised that he is not of the same political party as Mr. GERALD R. FORD and he does not know him personally and only from his reputation. He advised that from his reputation, he knows nothing derogatory concerning Mr. FORD'S character, reputation, loyalty, associates, or moral character. He knew nothing concerning the financial background of Mr. FORD. He advised that as Wayne County Prosecutor, he knew nothing derogatory from the files of Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Detroit, Michigan, concerning GERALD R. FORD. He advised that from what he knows from his reputation, GERALD R. FORD appeared to be a good candidate for the Vice-President of the United States.

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DE 161-1335  
BPM:dkc - 1

b6  
b7c

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] at Pontiac, Michigan:

L. BROOKS PATTERSON, white male, Prosecuting  
Attorney, County of Oakland, Court House Tower, Pon-  
tiac, Michigan, telephone 336-4751, home address  
[REDACTED], Troy, Michigan, unlisted telephone  
[REDACTED], provided the following information:

His acquaintance and association with ap-  
pointee GERALD FORD was described as "minimal",  
since this association was limited to correspon-  
dence with the appointee regarding the issue of  
busing for school integration. He said the ap-  
pointee is not a close friend and he has had no  
social contact with the appointee. He has known  
the appointee some three or four years and based  
on his minimal knowledge and association with the  
appointee, described the appointee as both a man  
of substantial character and a man completely  
loyal to the United States.

He said he knew nothing of the appointee's  
financial situation other than what newspapers had  
reported. He said he felt the appointee to be a  
qualified attorney and an individual who was not  
anti-minority.

He said that to his, PATTERSON's, knowledge,  
the appointee is qualified and capable of serving  
as the Vice President of the United States and he  
would without reservation, recommend that the Con-  
gress so designate the appointee. He said he knew  
nothing about the appointee which was uncomplimen-  
tary, unsatisfactory, or derogatory.



DE 161-1355  
PLM:jas - 1

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA PHILIP L. MERCADO on October 17, 1973, at Pontiac,  
Michigan:

[redacted] Pontiac, Michigan,  
Police Department, 110 East Pike Street, stated that he  
was not personally acquainted with the Vice-Presidential  
appointee GERALD R. FORD, except from knowledge gained  
from public media, and, therefore, felt he was in no  
position to render any recommendation for the appointee  
about whom [redacted] stated he knew of nothing derogatory.

DE 161-1355  
PLM:jas - 1

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA PHILIP L. MERCADO on October 17, 1973, at Royal Oak,  
Michigan:

Chief VIRGIL SCOTT, Royal Oak, Michigan, Police  
Department, stated that he was not acquainted with the  
Vice-Presidential appointee GERALD R. FORD, and, therefore,  
was in no position to render any recommendation.

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DE 161-1355  
PLM:dkd - 1

b6  
b7C

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973,  
at Pontiac, Michigan:

Sheriff JOHN J. F. SINDEN (Democrat), Oakland  
County Sheriff's Department, 1201 North Telegraph Road,  
Pontiac, Michigan, telephone 335-0194, stated that he  
was not acquainted with Vice-Presidential appointee,  
GERALD R. FORD.

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DE 161-1355  
EIM:dkd - 1

b6  
b7c

LA. REINFORCEMENT

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973,  
at Birmingham, Michigan:

Chief of Police ROBERT C. TUBEN, Birmingham  
Police Department, Birmingham, Michigan, stated he,  
in the past four or five years, had personally met  
the Vice-Presidential appointee, GERALD R. FORD, on  
several occasions at public appearance functions,  
but in no way does he consider himself well acquaint-  
ed with the appointee. Chief TUBEN stated he knew  
nothing derogatory concerning the appointee, but was  
in no position to consider a recommendation for the  
appointee, as he was not sufficiently acquainted with  
that person.

(1973)

**ASSOCIATES**

DE 161-1355  
AW:jas:kc - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Mr. CORNELIUS YOUNG, Promotion Coordinator at Baxter Community Center, 935 Baxter, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has been active in the Republican Party since 1952, and has known GERALD R. FORD since that time. He has been in several state conventions and caucuses with Mr. FORD.

Mr. YOUNG advised that Mr. FORD is basically an honest, trustworthy, hard working person who is conscientious about his constituency and does a good job for his district. He also advised that Mr. FORD is a family man and a good father and he, Mr. YOUNG, does not know anyone of national stature with as many friends among his constituents as Mr. FORD has. Mr. YOUNG advised that he thinks Mr. FORD has gone on record on numerous occasions for local and national aid for the poverty stricken individuals of this country. He does not think FORD has been unfair in his dealings with blacks and others of a low economic income. YOUNG advised that he does think it is a fitting event and culmination of FORD's career for him to be nominated for Vice President of this country. He feels that FORD is honest enough to work for all and that FORD is not without conscience. He feels that FORD will be an asset to the country and he expects good things to come from him.

DE 161-1355  
JCE:jas - 1

POLITICAL ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted at  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973, by SA [ ]  
[ ]

Mr. RICHARD C. SCHWAIGER, [ ], Grand Rapids, telephone number [ ] was contacted. He advised that he is an elected member of the Grand Rapids City Council. He was elected on a non-partisan ticket and has no political affiliation with either party. SCHWAIGER stated that he has been a member of the City Council since 1970. He is employed as a practicing chiropractor.

Mr. SCHWAIGER stated he has met Representative GERALD R. FORD on two occasions that he can specifically recall. Both of those meetings took place in Washington, D.C., in early 1971. They were in regards to securing funds for the City of Grand Rapids for the Neighborhood Development Funding Program. He characterized FORD as being a responsive and executive congressional representative for the people of Grand Rapids. Mr. SCHWAIGER further stated that FORD is "extremely professional" in conduct at his office. He has no knowledge of FORD's personal life nor does he know any of FORD's family members. He believes FORD's associates and administrative aids are competent although he does not know them personally.

Mr. SCHWAIGER stated he could provide no derogatory information regarding FORD. Further, he gives him his unequivocal support for any elected or appointed office be it local, state or federal. Mr. SCHWAIGER's personal opinion was that FORD would make an outstanding Vice President if he is so confirmed.

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DE 161-1355  
MLC/sas -1

ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973:

INK WHITE, President, Clinton National Bank and Trust Company, St. Johns, Michigan, resides at [ ] St. Johns, advised that he has known appointee since 1931, when they were classmates together at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. WHITE advised that he does not know appointee intimately, only casually, and has maintained a casual friendship over the past 42 years. WHITE advised that he finds appointee's integrity, loyalty and character outstanding and he can think of no one who would speak unfairly of appointee. WHITE advised that appointee does have political enemies in Congress, but all of them respect him. WHITE finds him to be loyal to the United States, to his constituents and to the Republican Party.

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b7c



JHC:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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Mrs. ILLA FLO HANSON, Clerk, Kent County Clerk of Courts Office, Grand Rapids, Michigan, provided the following information regarding GERALD R. FORD:

Mrs. HANSON stated that she would personally describe GERALD R. FORD as an excellent citizen coming from the highest family background possible. She said that he has the credibility and the necessary outstanding personal qualities to handle the position of Vice President.

Mrs. HANSON indicated she has known Mr. FORD for 20 years. She is unaware of anything derogatory in his background. She stated that there would be no question as to his character, loyalty or associates and that she is confident that he would do an outstanding job. She added that she would highly recommend Mr. FORD and stated "his grass root background" will be a definite asset in his position as Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
JRC/emp

On October 16, 1973, Mr. RAYMOND L. FISHER, 2112 Brockman Boulevard, former assistant football coach and retired baseball coach from the University of Michigan, stated that he knew GERALD FORD as a member of the varsity football squad during 1932 and 1935. He stated his observations of FORD were limited to FORD's action in practice and games. He stated he recalls FORD being an aggressive, hard working player and respected very highly by his team mates. He stated FORD was honest, trustworthy, dependable and a very capable leader among his peers. He advised FORD was a person of high moral character, had no prejudices and his attitude was outstanding. Mr. FISHER stated he never observed or heard of anything which would reflect on FORD as a person. He stated he could not comment on FORD's position on Civil Rights or his qualifications as an attorney as he did not know him that well. Mr. FISHER stated from his limited knowledge of FORD he would have no hesitancy to recommend FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
HKM/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16,  
1973:

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b7C

PERSONAL FRIEND

On October 16, 1973, FREDERICK C. STILES, General Building Contractor, 3501 East Lake Building, Grand Rapids, telephone number 949-3180, advised that he has known Appointee for over 40 years and considers him a very close personal friend. STILES advised that he and Appointee were fraternity brothers in the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at the University of Michigan. STILES further advised that he has known Appointee's wife BETTY since she was eight years of age and also knew her first husband WILLIAM WARREN who now resides in San Francisco, California.

STILES advised the Appointee and BETTY married late in 1948 and have four children all of whom he considers to be exemplary citizens.

STILES advised he has never contributed to Appointee's campaign or has he ever been asked to do so. STILES further advised that he has not always agreed with all of Appointee's political stances and on occasion they have discussed their differences.

STILES advised that as a general contractor he has done work for the government before on a bid basis only and on one occasion while in Washington, D. C., to do business with the Department of Housing Urban Development, he was driven to the office of GEORGE ROMNEY by Appointee and he was introduced to him by Appointee. STILES advised that he ultimately did receive a contract on Operation Breakthrough from the Department of Housing and Urban Development but in no way did Appointee exert any influence in his obtaining this contract. STILES advised he considered it perfectly normal being as close a friend to Appointee as he was to have Appointee introduce him to GEORGE ROMNEY.

STILES further advised that "about three years ago" Appointee took a directorship in the Old Kent Bank in Grand Rapids. STILES advised that after hearing this he contacted Appointee upon learning of this and told him that under the circumstances this could be misconstrued or misunderstood as possibly being a conflict of interests and Appointee resigned

DE 161-1355  
HKM/dmw - 2

almost immediately. STILES concluded by saying he personally knows nothing in Appointee's background which would prohibit him from being appointed to the high office for which he is being recommended.

DE 161-1355  
DLB/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED]:

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On October 16, 1973, JACK BARNES, 2509 Oakwood Drive, East, Grand Rapids, Michigan, employed by C. D. BARNES Associates, 3437 Eastern Avenue, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD, JR for at least 25 years as he attended South High School in Grand Rapids with him and has maintained a friendship with him over the years. He advised that he and his wife have been close personal friends of both GERALD FOR and FORD's wife and said that both of them, along with their family, enjoy an excellent reputation in the community.

He recalled that FORD's father was self-employed as operator of Ford Paint and Enamel Company in Grand Rapids and that the company is still operated by the family. He described FORD as having an unimpeachable moral character, as being extremely honest, and as being completely loyal towards the United States. He described the living standards of the FORDs as being conservative and said he has never known of their having any financial problems.

He said that he does not agree with everything that FORD does politically; however, as he tends to agree too often with what President RICHARD M. NIXON says and does not see how FORD could always be in complete agreement with the ideas of the President. He said that although FORD is a close personal friend of his, he was not in agreement with his being recommended for the position of Vice President of the United States as he prefers that a more forcible person hold an office of this nature. He said, however, that he feels that FORD has the ability to bring the legislative and executive branches of the government together and, therefore, may be able to handle the job of Vice President successfully. He said that the integrity of FORD is beyond reproach and from the standpoint of his personal traits, sees no reason he should not be considered for the office of Vice President. He said that he would recommend FORD for a position of trust with the United States Government without reservation.

DE 161-1355  
TWR:jas - 1

FRIEND

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

Mr. LAWRENCE FOX CALAHAN, 445 Briar Lane, NE,  
Grand Rapids, telephone number 456-9273, was interviewed  
and provided the following information:

Mr. CALAHAN advised he is the former editor-publisher of Calahan Company Publishers which published magazines concerning furniture, from which he retired approximately 10 years ago. He advised he has known Mr. FORD for over 30 years on a social basis and that Mr. FORD is also a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (AASR), Northern Jurisdiction, of the Masonic Organization. Mr. CALAHAN stated he is Secretary-Treasurer of this organization and that Mr. FORD has been a member for approximately five years. He stated the AASR was a fraternal organization, that Mr. FORD attended meetings irregularly and that some of the qualifications for membership were outstanding character, unquestioned morals, no record of criminal activity or associates, and a loyal citizen. He advised that individuals were recommended for membership by another member and they had to pass a stiff community investigation before being accepted into the organization. He stated that Mr. FORD held only the position of member within the organization. He advised that the charter of the organization does not superficially exclude any member due to race or religion, but has no personal knowledge of any blacks within the organization. He stated the Masonic charter does exclude Atheists.

Mr. CALAHAN described Mr. FORD as an outstanding individual who operates well under stress and is well liked by Democrats and Republicans alike. He stated Mr. FORD has been responsive to the needs and desires of senior citizens within his Congressional District and there is absolutely no derogatory information which would affect his confirmation for Vice President by Congress.

DE 161-1355

TWR:jas - 2

Mr. CALAHAN advised he feels Mr. FORD takes the middle of the road approach with regards to civil rights and that he has not heard FORD bring up the subject. He advised that during personal conversations, Mr. FORD stated that he had no ambitions to be President and that his main goal was to be Speaker of the House. Mr. CALAHAN advised that he knew Mr. FORD's mother and father while they were still alive and also is acquainted with other members of the FORD family and that he considers them all to be outstanding citizens.

DE 161-1355  
LAB:jas - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on  
October 17, 1973:

b6  
b7C

HAROLD WILMARTH, Mortgage Department, Old Kent Bank, Grand Rapids, was interviewed and provided the following information:

He advised he has been a friend of GERALD R. FORD for well over 20 years and that he presently owns a piece of land in Caberfae, Michigan, jointly with Mr. FORD, JOHN R. STILES, a land developer in Grand Rapids, and NEIL A. WEATHERS, an attorney in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He advised all four couples enjoyed skiing and decided to purchase a piece of land in a ski area. In 1946, each couple decided to put in \$200.00 and purchase this land. He advised they built a small log cabin on the property and used it on skiing vacations. He advised that some years ago, a portion of this land was sold to Caberfae Ink Company and Caberfae in turn built a shell of a cabin for them as their log cabin was torn down in order for Caberfae to build a motel. He went on to state that each man made approximately \$4,000.00 on this sale of the land. He stated that FORD has not been to the property for at least 20 years and that it is primarily used by himself and STILES. He further stated that FORD has asked to sell out of this arrangement, but none of the other three partners were willing to buy him out at this time. He stated this cabin and land cost FORD approximately \$47.00 - \$55.00 per year in taxes and insurance.

WILMARTH stated that in all the years he has known GERALD FORD he has never known of any derogatory information concerning him, his wife, or his family. He advised that FORD is as fine a man as he has ever known and he does not think there could have been a better choice for Vice President. He stated that as long as he has known FORD, he has never seen him



DE 161-1355  
LAB:jas - 2

overindulge in alcohol and has known him to be a man of high moral character and integrity. He advised he also knows FORD's wife, BETTY BLOOMER, and stated he knew she was formerly employed with the Martha Graham Dance Troup and to the best of his knowledge, their marriage has been a happy one. He stated that Mrs. FORD has a brother and he believes his name to be ROBERT BLOOMER and thinks he resides in Traverse City, Michigan, but could not say for sure.

He made the statement that, "If GERALD FORD isn't found to be Mr. Clean, he is going to give up his right to vote". He advised that FORD, as always, enjoyed an outstanding reputation in Grand Rapids as both a man, a politician, and a loyal American.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DA 161-1355  
MEP/rlg - 1

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Doctor JULIUS FRANKS, JR. (DDS), 1942 Emerald, North-east, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was contacted at his office, 505 Medical Arts Building, Grand Rapids.

FRANKS advised he has known GERALD FORD since 1951 and stated that he considers himself to be a close personal friend of FORD. He stated they both were graduates of the University of Michigan and both had played on the Varsity football teams while enrolled there. He stated that he is not FORD's personal or family dentist, but because of the fact that they both attended the same college and played on the football team they maintained a close personal relationship. He further advised that he and FORD are members of the Grand Rapids Michigan Rotary Club.

FORD, in FRANK's opinion, is one of the most outstanding leaders in government and he considers him to be an honest, mature, frank individual who in his opinion has established an excellent reputation in politics.

He stated he knows of no derogatory information concerning FORD or any member of his immediate family.

He stated that based upon his personal knowledge of FORD and because of his many years in the U.S. Congress he feels that he will make an excellent Vice President for this country.

FRANKS stated that he would highly recommend FORD for the position of Vice President without any reservations whatsoever.

DE 161-1355  
LGM/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
[redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

Mr. ROBERT LALLEY, 1034 Nevada, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Vice President of the Michigan National Bank, Grand Rapids, and former Special Agent of the FBI, retired, advised that he has been acquainted with Congressman FORD for over 35 years. He stated during these years, his association with Congressman FORD has been as a close friend and associate. He has always considered Congressman FORD to be an extremely loyal individual, whose conduct, in his opinion, has always been above reproach. He has always considered FORD to be an extremely capable individual, dependable and one in whom he would always trust with the confidence that this trust would always be maintained.

Mr. LALLEY stated that he has never heard nor has he ever run into any situation where he felt there was any question about the honesty of Congressman FORD or where there was ever indication that FORD had ever accepted any funds, or any item of value which could be construed as being given to him to create favors for any individual or company. He stated he has never heard of anything which he would consider to be derogatory regarding Congressman FORD and he has always considered him to be an extremely fine gentleman.

Mr. LALLEY stated that he considers Mr. FORD to be of extremely high moral character, that he associates with people of like caliber, that he has always been extremely fair in his assistance to all races and nationalities with no indication of being prejudice. He stated he feels Congressman FORD is well qualified to be Vice President of the United States and he very strongly recommends him for this position.

DE 161-1355  
TWR/dm 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at East Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
on October 17, 1973:

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FARRELL D. BABCOCK, [REDACTED]  
East Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone [REDACTED]  
provided the following information:

Mr. BABCOCK stated he is the Chief of Police of East Grand Rapids, Michigan, and has been in that position for approximately 7½ years. He advised Mr. FORD maintains a residence in his jurisdiction at 1624 Sherman Drive. Mr. BABCOCK stated he is not personally acquainted with Mr. FORD, but does know his brother, TOM FORD, who also resides within his jurisdiction. He stated he holds both individuals in the very highest regard.

Mr. BABCOCK stated he was certain GERALD R. FORD had no criminal record within his city nor did his brother and that he would be extremely delighted to see Mr. FORD confirmed as Vice-President from the Law Enforcement point of view. He advised he receives periodic bulletins from Mr. FORD's Office and that these bulletins coincide with his views concerning the position of Law Enforcement Officials within the community today.

He stated he has no personal knowledge nor has heard any hearsay information concerning derogatory information which would hinder Mr. FORD's speedy confirmation by Congress.

DE 161-1355  
TJL:kc - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted at  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Mr. WILLIAM H. BEAMAN, JR., President-Treasurer, F. Raniville Company, 124 Pearl Street, Grand Rapids, home address 1410 Pontiac Road, SE, Grand Rapids, telephone 245-0036, stated that he has been a long-time personal friend of Representative GERALD FORD since 1927.

Mr. BEAMAN stated that he grew up with Mr. FORD in Grand Rapids, attended the same high school, and that they were both members of the same scouting organization as youths. Since that time he has had a close, personal and professional relationship with Mr. FORD and knows him to be of the highest moral caliber and without question a devoted public servant and loyal American.

Mr. BEAMAN identified himself as a former member and head of the Grand Rapids Board of Education and as such has had numerous contacts with Mr. FORD on various educational and civil rights related issues. He has never heard Mr. FORD express himself in a derogatory manner on any racial issue and knows through personal experience that Congressman FORD has always remained unbiased in such matters.

Mr. BEAMAN stated that he has little knowledge about Mr. FORD's financial dealings but that he would be absolutely surprised to learn of any derogatory information in this regard.

Mr. BEAMAN is familiar with many of Mr. FORD's associates as well as family members and can think of no one of them who would reflect adversely on his nomination. As regards to qualifications as an attorney, he considers him an extremely ethical individual but is not in a position to judge his legal expertness.

Mr. BEAMAN gives Mr. FORD his highest recommendation and feels that he is an outstandingly-qualified candidate for the office of Vice President.

DE 161-1355  
HKM/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16,  
1973:

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b7C

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

Mr. RICHARD F. VANDER VEEN, Attorney, 950 Union Bank Building, Grand Rapids, advised that he ran against Appointee in the 1958 Congressional election for the Fifth District of Michigan. VANDER VEEN stated that he has not personally known Appointee that well but considers him to be a fine gentleman whose integrity, loyalty, morality, etc., are above reproach. VANDER VEEN stated that obviously his political views differ from Appointee; however, he knows nothing in Appointee's background which would prohibit him from recommending Appointee to the high office to which he has been appointed.

DE 161-1355  
WAT/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

b6  
b7c

LEWIS R. SMITH, Director of Employee and Labor Relations, Grand Rapids Post Office, United States Postal Service, advised that he is the same age as GERALD R. FORD, JR. and attended high school concurrently, although he attended a different high school than FORD.

He met FORD several times, but is not an intimate acquaintance. He described FORD's character as a very fine gentleman and SMITH has never heard anything to the contrary.

When asked about FORD's reputation, SMITH commented that it is excellent and " . . . even if you don't agree with him, you have to admire his fairness." FORD opposed several pay raises for the postal employees in that he thought it was in the best interest of the economy. Even in view of his opposition to the pay raises, he is admired for his fairness.

SMITH commented that FORD has very fine associates and that there is no reason to question FORD's loyalty to the United States. SMITH would unequivocally recommend FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government and has heard no derogatory comments or any rumored indiscretions regarding FORD. He added that, "that's an odd thing, too, because I have never heard any derogatory comments from political opponents." FORD is very responsive to his constituency and FORD ". . . never got so big that he couldn't take care of small problems from our area."

SMITH concluded by stating, "we need more people like him."

MPP:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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Mr. GRANT J. GUREL, Attorney, 755 Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he is a Democrat and first met Mr. GERALD R. FORD in 1959 through DON SOUTER, one of his law office's partners, who is a Republican and a strong supporter of FORD. He advised that he has had approximately six personal contacts with GERALD FORD since that first meeting, one of which was a meeting with FORD in his Washington, D.C., Office.

Mr. GUREL stated that he did not claim to be a close personal friend of GERALD FORD in any manner, however, he considers FORD to be a honest, hard working, loyal American who is dedicated to serving his country in government service.

He stated that he knows of nothing of a derogatory nature concerning Mr. FORD and although they are opposites as far as political parties are concerned, he believes FORD to be extremely qualified and competent for the position of Vice President. Mr. GUREL further advised that he does know GERALD FORD's brothers, DICK and JIM, on a personal basis and has associated with each of these brothers for the last 15 years in Grand Rapids activities.

Mr. GUREL stated that he did not feel himself in a position to recommend GERALD FORD as Vice President, however, he again reiterated that he knows nothing against Mr. FORD and certainly feels that he is competent and well qualified to hold that office.



DE 161-1355  
IAB/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED], on October 17, 1973, at Grand  
Rapids, Michigan:

CHARLES M. WIERSMA, [REDACTED] Grand  
Rapids, telephone number [REDACTED] was contacted and  
furnished the following information:

WIERSMA advised that he is a Kent County  
Commissioner having been elected to that post on the  
Republican ticket from the 13th District. In private life  
WIERSMA is a real estate broker.

WIERSMA has known the Appointee personally through  
political campaigns for approximately 15 years although he  
does not know any members of the Appointee's family.

WIERSMA advised that he would highly recommend  
the approval of the Appointee and he pointed out that as  
far as he knows the people of Grand Rapids hold the Representa-  
tive in the highest esteem.

WIERSMA pointed out that the Appointee is known as  
a very down to earth person.

WIERSMA advised he knows of no derogatory information  
about the Appointee which would prevent his approval or later  
bring embarrassment to the President of the United States.

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JHC:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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b7c

PAUL GOEBEL, Jr., Fifth Director Commissioner,  
Kent County Board of Commissioners, Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, was interviewed and provided the following  
information regarding GERALD R. FORD:

Mr. GOEBEL stated he has known the FORD  
family for over 40 years and that he has been affiliated  
with FORD both professionally and socially in the  
Grand Rapids community. He described FORD's personal  
conduct as exemplary. He stated that FORD was a  
"stand out" type of individual coming from an excellent  
family background. Mr. GOEBEL stated that he has grown  
up with the FORD family and would describe the FORD  
family as the perfect American family.

In discussing Mr. FORD's job performance,  
Mr. GOEBEL stated that he does a superb job of  
being responsive to his constituents and that his  
detailed attention to duties is remarkable. Mr. GOEBEL  
stated that Mr. FORD has excelled in his duties as  
minority leader in the Congress while continuing to  
react to the needs and demands of his personal  
congressional seat.

Mr. GOEBEL stated that he is unaware of any  
derogatory information in the background of Mr. FORD  
or that of Mr. FORD's family. He would highly recommend  
FORD for the position of which he is being appointed  
and concluded his remarks by saying that Mr. FORD  
will handle his duties with the utmost professional  
degree.

DE 161-1355  
JCE/bjk - 1

b6  
b7c

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

WALTER E. STERKENBURG, 1614 Rosewood, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, residence telephone CH1-3146, Commissioner, Kent County Board of Commissioners, was contacted. He advised he has been a Commissioner for approximately six years. He is currently Chairman of The Personnel Committee.

He stated he has known Congressman GERALD R. FORD, JR. for approximately the last 25 years. He characterized their association as being one of a professional-political nature. He stated he has met with FORD on County business, both in Grand Rapids and in Washington, D.C.

STERKENBURG said he is currently employed as a salesman for the Ford Paint Company of Grand Rapids. He knows Congressman FORD is a minor stockholder in this firm, which is operated by RICHARD FORD, a brother of the Congressman. He stated he has never had any contact with Congressman FORD relating to the paint company business.

He knows of no derogatory information concerning Congressman FORD, nor any member of his family, and has the highest personal and professional regard for him. STERKENBURG stated he would recommend him for any office without hesitation. He stated further he believes Congressman FORD to be highly qualified for the appointment for which he is being considered currently.

STERKENBURG advised that he is an elected member of the Kent County Board of Commissioners and has been a life long member of the Republican Party.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

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DN 161-1355  
WGS/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

[REDACTED], Legal Assistant to the Prosecutor, Kent County, Michigan, advised that he has known FORD for approximately 17 years. [REDACTED] stated that his acquaintance with FORD has mainly been through his parents who are close personal friends of FORD.

[REDACTED] advised that to the best of his knowledge he has never heard any derogatory information concerning FORD's character, morals or reputation. [REDACTED] stated that he has never heard any information of FORD ever doing anything illegal while either running for office or while in office. [REDACTED] stated that to his knowledge FORD is a very loyal American citizen. [REDACTED] advised that he would highly recommend FORD for any position of trust and responsibility.

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DE 161-1355  
WGG/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA

[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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b7c

WESLEY J. NYKAMP, Chief Assistant Prosecutor, Kent County, Michigan, was contacted and advised that he has known GILBERT FORD on a limited basis for approximately six years. NYKAMP stated that FORD is an individual of the highest character and morals and enjoys an excellent reputation in the community. NYKAMP stated that FORD is an individual of excellent associates and a loyal American citizen. NYKAMP advised that as far as he knows he has never heard any rumors or derogatory information that would taint FORD.

NYKAMP advised that he would highly recommend FORD to a position of trust and responsibility because he feels FORD is an extremely competent and able man.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Do 161-1355  
DGS/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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b7C

DONALD A. JOHNSTON, III, Chief Appellate Attorney, Kent County Prosecutor's Office, was contacted and advised that he has been an associate of GERALD FORD for approximately four years.

JOHNSTON advised that he is much better acquainted with FORD's brothers than he is with GERALD FORD himself. JOHNSTON stated that he thinks highly of FORD's brothers as well as of GERALD FORD.

JOHNSTON advised that FORD is an extremely hard working individual who enjoys an outstanding reputation in the community. JOHNSTON stated that FORD is an individual of the highest character and moral standards. JOHNSTON stated that FORD is an outstanding American citizen and is an individual of the highest associates.

JOHNSTON advised that he has never heard, nor knows of any derogatory information concerning FORD.

JOHNSTON advised that due to FORD's outstanding ability and competence he would highly recommend him for any position of trust and loyalty in the United States Government.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DO 161-1355  
WGS/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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b7C

DAVID G. KALL, Chief Trial Lawyer, Kent County  
Prosecutor's Office, was contacted and advised that he has  
been an acquaintance of GERALD FORD for approximately ten  
years.

KALL advised that during his acquaintance with FORD  
he has known him to be of nothing but the highest character  
and reputation. KALL stated that FORD is a loyal American  
citizen and of the highest associates.

KALL stated that personally he feels that FORD is  
an outstanding individual of the highest quality and that he  
would most definitely recommend him for a position of trust  
and responsibility.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DL 161-1355  
WGU/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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b7c

DONALD W. ZERIAL, Assistant Prosecutor, Kent County, Michigan, advised that he does not personally know CHARLES FORD, but has become knowledgeable of FORD's activities for approximately the last five years.

ZERIAL advised that to his personal knowledge he has never heard any rumors or derogatory information concerning the character, reputation, loyalty or associates of FORD. ZERIAL advised that from the information he has heard or read concerning FORD he would highly recommend him for a position of trust and responsibility in the United States Government.



LA 161-1355

TVF/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

ROBERT G. QUINN, Attorney, 100 Commerce Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he served as an Assistant United States Attorney from July, 1961, through August, 1964, and that he was United States Attorney from November, 1964 through August, 1965, in the Eastern District of Michigan, Grand Rapids. He advised that he is a life long resident of Grand Rapids and has practiced law in the area since March, 1958. He also advised that he is a very active Democrat.

He advised that he knows FORD politically and socially. He stated that he can think of no derogatory information concerning FORD and that during his time as United States Attorney, Grand Rapids, he never heard anything that could prove embarrassing to FORD if he were to become Vice President of the United States. He advised FORD is of the highest moral character and that he and his family are held in the highest regard in the Grand Rapids area. He advised that he has never heard of any political scandals or misappropriations of funds during FORD's political campaigns.

He advised that to the best of his knowledge FORD is politically and morally qualified to serve as Vice President of the United States.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DL 161-1355  
WGS/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by G.  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

JAMES K. MILLER, Prosecuting Attorney, Kent County, Michigan, was contacted and advised that he has known GERALD FORD for approximately 33 years. MILLER advised that throughout the years he has been acquainted with FORD as a personal friend. MILLER advised that FORD is of the highest character and associates and enjoys a fine reputation in the community. MILLER advised that FORD is of the highest morals and is a loyal American citizen. MILLER advised that he feels as if FORD would make an excellent Vice President.

MILLER advised that FORD has always been an individual to protect the constitutional and civil rights of every American citizen.

MILLER advised that, in his opinion, FORD is an extremely competent individual and that he would highly recommend FORD for any position of trust and responsibility.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DL 161-1355

UGJ/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

b6  
b7c

KENNETH D. POST, Assistant Prosecutor, Kent County, Michigan, was contacted and advised that he is not acquainted nor has he ever met GERALD FORD.

POST advised that to the best of his knowledge he has never heard any derogatory information concerning FORD's character, reputation, loyalty or associates.

POST stated that from what he has heard concerning FORD, he would recommend him for the position of trust and responsibility.

DE 161-1355  
TVF:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

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b7c

J. WARREN EARDLEY, Former Assistant United States Attorney, Grand Rapids, Michigan, currently practicing law at Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has been acquainted with GERALD FORD for approximately 20 years. He stated that although FORD does not know him well, he has had several dealings with FORD during this period, both professionally and as a private citizen, and that he has the highest regard for FORD's professional and leadership abilities.

He advised that he is a personal friend of FORD's brother, Dr. JAMES FORD, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and he holds the highest regard for the entire FORD family.

He advised that he could not think of anything derogatory about FORD or his family. He advised that he would highly recommend FORD for the position of trust and responsibility in the Federal Government. He stated that because he was not a close personal friend of FORD, he could not provide any further information regarding him.

DB 161-1355  
TFS/rlg - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

b6  
b7c

Mr. JOHN ARSULOWICZ, 1561 Oswego, Northwest Grand Rapids, Michigan, Telephone 453-4830, co-owner of Arsulowicz Brothers Mortuaries, 535 Stocking, Northwest, Grand Rapids, and 937 Michigan Street, Northeast Grand Rapids, Michigan, Telephone 458-1297, advised that he was born and raised in Grand Rapids and has resided here for some 58 years. He has been in the mortuary business for some 35 years. He advised that he has known FORD for over 20 years and estimates the date as 1950 through to the present. He has known FORD personally through business contacts. He further advised that Polish people often come to him for advice on Immigration and Naturalization matters and because of this he has had occasion to contact FORD personally. ARSULOWICZ advised that FORD attended South High School in Grand Rapids and that he attended Catholic Central High School in Grand Rapids. ARSULOWICZ did not know FORD personally at that time other than that FORD joined football and he remembers him as a good ball player.

ARSULOWICZ stated that FORD's family has always been Republican and that his family has always been Democratic. He added, however, that he has always been a supporter of FORD. ARSULOWICZ stated, "He is a very likable fellow...you could phone him and if he was in Washington his secretary would contact him and he would return the call." ARSULOWICZ stated, "He was a stickler for detail." ARSULOWICZ further advised that FORD is of the highest reputation, honest, with integrity and trustworthy.

ARSULOWICZ is not aware of any activities on the part of FORD which would reveal a lack of the above qualities. He advised that FORD is of unquestionable loyalty, integrity and allegiance to the United States. ARSULOWICZ stated, "I think FORD is 100 per cent true American." ARSULOWICZ was not aware of any foreign or ideological sympathies which FORD might have.

DL 161-1355

TFS/rlg - 2

ARSULOWICZ advised that JOHN MILANOWSKI was one of FORD's secretaries seven or eight years ago while FORD was a Congressman. He further advised that MILANOWSKI is currently a United States District Attorney.

ARSULOWICZ stated that he came into personal contact with FORD through MILANOWSKI. He further advised that he has never heard anything about FORD that was not good. He stated, "GARY is a very likable guy - down-to-earth."

ARSULOWICZ has never maintained a social relationship with FORD other than meeting him at business functions or dinners. ARSULOWICZ continued by stating FORD was liked in the Grand Rapids area by both Democrats and Republicans. He stated, "He is very fair and square." ARSULOWICZ maintained that it is common knowledge that anyone with an immigration or naturalization problem would feel free to contact FORD. He further stated that FORD was very close to the people of his district and they were close to him.

ARSULOWICZ was not familiar with FORD's family or family life. His last contact with FORD was two years ago. He recalls that FORD has always been receptive, warm and friendly to anyone who requested help of him. ARSULOWICZ advised that does not know of any incident which would cause embarrassment either to FORD or the President. He stated that FORD's character and way of life is beyond reproach. He stated, "I don't think there is a thing in the world which would create a shadow on GERALD FORD's life." He further stated that FORD would be a very good man for the position he has been named to fill.

FORD has always had the welfare of the entire people of the United States in mind.

ARSULOWICZ stated that he knows the Democrats in the House respect FORD very highly. He stated, "I once met former Congressman BUCHENSKI of Chicago, Illinois, who was a Democratic Congressman and he spoke very highly of Congressman FORD."

DE 161-1355  
BRF/dkd/mmr:clc - 1

ASSOCIATES

b6  
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Midland, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

FIELDING E. YOST, JR., 3200 Applewood Drive,  
telephone TE 5-9484, Vice President in Charge of Purchasing,  
Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan, furnished the  
following information:

Mr. YOST stated he first met the appointee at the  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1930, when  
they were both students and members of the Delta Kappa Epsilon  
Fraternity.

Mr. YOST stated he has maintained his association  
with the appointee over the years and had last talked to him  
about three years ago when the appointee made a speech before  
the Manufacturers and Chemists Association at Midland,  
Michigan.

Mr. YOST stated he considered the appointee to be a  
person of high moral character, and to be a reliable and  
completely loyal individual. He stated he is aware the  
appointee is being considered for Vice President of the United  
States and that he feels he will serve in an exemplary manner.

DE 161-1355  
BEE/kpd -1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted on October 17, 1973, by SAs [ ] and [ ] at Franklin, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

STANLEY EDWIN FAY, Realtor, Snider, Kinney and Bennett, 32740 Franklin Road, Franklin, Michigan, was contacted at his place of employment at which time he advised as follows in reference to GERALD FORD:

Mr. FAY commented that Mr. FORD and he were teammates on the University of Michigan football team in 1931 and 1932. He advised that he has seen Mr. FORD at football reunions since their college days but has had no professional contact with him. Mr. FAY described the appointee as a loyal, patriotic American, of impeccable character, high moral standards, aggressive, hard working, an all around guy, intelligent, and one who works well with others.

Mr. FAY concluded by saying that he would recommend the appointee without reservation for the position of Vice President of the United States.



DE 161-1355

RMH/dm 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted at  
Big Bay, Michigan, on October 17, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Mr. W. PAGE WHITE, Box 119, Big Bay, Michigan, advised that he retired in July, 1970, as the Senior Federal Probation Officer for the Western District of Michigan, at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. WHITE stated that while he was well aware of Congressman GERALD FORD's excellent reputation in the field of politics, he could offer no firsthand information concerning Mr. FORD since he had never met him personally.

DE 161-1355  
JHM/pjw -1

ASSOCIATE

MICHAEL STEVEN SAVAGE, who resides at 501 Meridan, Dearborn, Michigan, telephone number LO 1-7269, and who is employed by the Dearborn School System, was interviewed at his residence on October 16, 1973, by SAs [ ] and [ ]

Mr. SAVAGE advised he first met and became acquainted with GERALD FORD during spring football practice at the University of Michigan in 1933 and that he and FORD played football at the University of Michigan during the 1933 and 1934 school years. Since college days he has had infrequent contacts with FORD and has twice visited with FORD at FORD's Washington, D. C. office for a brief period where they talked over old times. This last visit was approximately ten years ago.

He described FORD as a well-liked, enthusiastic, studious person during college days. He said FORD has always associated with reputable people and that he has no personal knowledge and has never heard anything which would reflect unfavorably on FORD's character, morals, associates, financial background or his loyalty to the United States.

Mr. SAVAGE stated, from his knowledge of FORD, he believes he would be well qualified to run the affairs of the United States Government, and that he would highly recommend FORD to be Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
HJM/KAB - 1

#### ASSOCIATES

CHARLES C. MENEFEE of 481 West Erie Street, Rogers City, Michigan, was interviewed by SA HARRIS J. MILLER on October 16, 1973, at his law office, 124 South Third Street, Rogers City.

He advised that he has been practicing law at Rogers City for 15 years and is also the City Attorney as well as the Probate Judge for Presque Isle, Presque Isle County, Michigan.

He advised he believes he first met the appointee in 1931, when the appointee, as a freshman, was pledged to the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. MENEFEE advised that he was also a member of this fraternity.

He advised that the appointee was as good a friend as any he had during his college years and, of course, was well known to all students and very popular because he was an excellent football player at this university; however, the appointee was also well regarded as an individual.

He advised the appointee as a fraternity brother was much more reserved and straitlaced than most of the members of the fraternity.

He advised that he believes the appointee had to work to finance his way through school and in his senior year was given the steward's position at the fraternity.

He said he, MENEFEE, graduated in 1934, and has only occasionally had contact with the appointee since 1934, such as at the fraternity house after football games and that his last real contact with the appointee was probably 15 years ago.

He advised the appointee, in his opinion, is a very fine person and that he has never heard any derogatory statements about him either during his school years or subsequently.

DE 161-1355  
HJM/KAB - 2

He said he feels the appointee should make an excellent Vice-President, one that will respect the rights of all Americans. He said he recalls during a discussion with the appointee, possibly 15 years ago, that the appointee at that time spoke very highly of President NIXON.

DE 161-1355  
JEM/pap - 1

ASSOCIATE

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THOMAS MORLEY WARREN, Public Relations Officer, General Motors Corporation, Detroit, Michigan, advised SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973, that he has known the appointee since 1930. He stated he knew the appointee intimately through 1934 as they received free room and board working as co-managers of their fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon, while attending University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Mr. WARREN advised the appointee was a very popular person in school and sincerely believes him to be a nice guy. He stated he has maintained very limited contact since college and last saw the appointee about six or seven years ago. He stated that during the period they worked together as co-managers of the fraternity they were almost inseparable, although they disagreed on everything and would often stay awake late at night arguing their points of view. He added his liberal views contrasted markedly with the appointee's conservative views and led to very interesting arguments.

Mr. WARREN stated in spite of constant arguing they were bosom pals and he has the highest respect for the appointee's integrity, reputation, and loyalty and believes him to be a truly honest individual, not only in public life, but in his private life as well.

DE 161-1355  
DGK/pjw -1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SAs [redacted] and [redacted] at Marine  
City, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Dr. ALBERT C. KERLIKOWSKE, 7111 South Riverside Drive, telephone number 765-4312, advised that he is a personal acquaintance of GERALD R. FORD, having first become acquainted with Mr. FORD during the football seasons of 1932 through 1934 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. KERLIKOWSKE advised that he was the Assistant Administrator to the University Hospital during the time that Mr. FORD was an active player on the University of Michigan football team and stated that through this association, he met and maintained acquaintanceship with Mr. FORD throughout the years. Dr. KERLIKOWSKE advised that he has maintained infrequent contact with Mr. FORD and stated that throughout his acquaintanceship, Mr. FORD has always been a man of high character and morals, who enjoyed an excellent reputation with his teammates, coaching staff and all other persons with whom he had contact. Dr. KERLIKOWSKE advised that he could not say enough good things about Mr. FORD and stated that he knew of nothing derogatory regarding Mr. FORD as a student, athlete, a scholar, attorney or a political figure throughout his career. Dr. KERLIKOWSKE stated that he could not make a statement regarding FORD's qualifications as an attorney because he has never had occasion to observe Mr. FORD in a professional legal status; however, he stated that without reservation he could give his highest recommendation to Mr. FORD in consideration of the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
RLM/dm 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted at Ann Arbor, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED]:

On October 16, 1973, Mr. CLIFF KEENE, Keene Enterprises, Inc., 1235 Rosewood Street, and former member of the University of Michigan coaching staff advised he knew GERALD FORD from 1932 to 1935 as a member of the varsity football team. He advised his observations of Mr. FORD, as a player and person, are all favorable. He stated he noted Mr. FORD was hard working, got along well with the coaching staff and his peers. He advised he would describe Mr. FORD as a "team man" who was a leader and demanded respect.

Mr. KEENE stated he has followed Mr. FORD's career and has on occasions met with him, over the years, at university functions. He stated he has found Mr. FORD to be honest and forthright, hard working and able to get along with others. He stated he has no knowledge of Mr. FORD's views, his opinion on Civil Rights or his qualifications as an attorney, but as a man who is honest and trustworthy with the highest integrity he would recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice-President of the United States.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

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DE 161-1355  
TOM:amd - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

Mr. BENJIE OOSTERBAAN of 1245 Verdon, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was contacted at his summer residence on Lake Leelanau. He stated he has known GERALD FORD since either 1931 or 1932 when Mr. FORD entered the University of Michigan as a freshman. At that time, he, OOSTERBAAN, was the assistant football coach.

He had a very close relationship during Mr. FORD's undergraduate years and this continues through to the present. He stated they are very close associates and that he feels Mr. FORD is of the highest caliber a person could obtain. He stated that his integrity, honesty are above reproach, and that nothing has ever occurred that would reflect the least bit unfavorably upon him.

In closing, OOSTERBAAN stated if Mr. FORD had a fault, it would be that he is too modest.



DE 161-1355  
RLM/dm 1

ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted at Ann Arbor, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED]:

On October 16, 1973, Mr. CLARENCE M. MARKHAM, Providential Mutual Insurance Company, 15 Research Drive, stated he was a former close associate of Mr. FORD at the University of Michigan. He stated he belonged to the same fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon, 1916 Geddes Avenue. MARKHAM stated Mr. FORD was hard working, honest and trustworthy and well liked by others. He stated he has known Mr. FORD since 1932, but has not closely associated with him for a number of years. He advised Mr. FORD is a man of outstanding character and reputation and there is no question regarding his morals or loyalty to the United States.

Mr. MARKHAM advised during his close association with Mr. FORD, while in college, he observed no discrimination or bigotted attitudes on the part of Mr. FORD. He stated Mr. FORD closely associated with members of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and members of the University of Michigan football team and the coaches. He stated he could not comment on Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney as he has not known him in that capacity, but he added from his knowledge and association with Mr. FORD he would judge Mr. FORD would be a very capable and honest attorney. Mr. MARKHAM stated he has no information regarding Mr. FORD that would be unfavorable or reflect on his integrity. He stated he would highly recommend Mr. FORD without qualification for the Office of Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355  
DAT:js - 1

Professional Acquaintance

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

JACK BRESLIN, Executive Secretary and Vice President, Michigan State University (MSU), advised that he is acquainted with Representative GERALD FORD. He has known him for the last two or three years and his contact has been on a social basis. He stated that he has the greatest respect for FORD and has never heard anything derogatory concerning FORD's character or reputation. He advised that his opinion of FORD is that he is loyal to the people he represents and he believes him to be of high moral character. He advised that he could recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States and indicated that he would not make this recommendation lightly.

DE 161-1355  
RLM/dm 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted at Ann Arbor, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED]:

On October 16, 1973, Mr. WALLY WEBER, 1076 Heatherway, former coach at University of Michigan, advised he was on the University of Michigan coaching staff during the time GERALD FORD was a member of the varsity team. He stated he knew Mr. FORD and became quite well acquainted with him during the period 1932 - 1935. He stated Mr. FORD was a hard working, conscientious person, honest and trustworthy and a "team player". He advised Mr. FORD was well liked by his peers as well as the coaching staff.

Mr. WEBER stated Mr. FORD was a good solid person who worked his way through college by waiting table in the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

He stated he knew nothing which would adversely reflect on Mr. FORD's character, reputation, morals or loyalty to the United States. He advised he could not comment on Mr. FORD's views on Civil Rights or his ability as an attorney because he did not know him in this capacity.

Mr. WEBER stated as a person of the highest integrity and honesty and his ability at hard work and "team effort" he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice-President of the United States.

CAP:fln-1  
DE 161-I355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

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GEORGE B. WHEELER, 620 Old Kent Building,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he was Chairman of  
the Grievance Committee and past President of the  
Grand Rapids Bar Association during the early 1950s.

WHEELER has known GERALD R. FORD since FORD  
began practicing law. WHEELER could only recall one  
instance when he opposed FORD in a civil case. WHEELER  
advised that FORD fought hard for his clients but at  
no time did he use tactics which could be considered  
even slightly unethical. WHEELER further advised  
that FORD is a loyal and trustworthy individual  
and his character is beyond reproach.

DE 161-1355  
HKM/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on October 16, 1973, at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan:

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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

Mr. STEPHEN C. BRANSDORFER, President Elect, Michigan State Bar Association, 465 Old Kent Bank Building, Grand Rapids, telephone number 459-8311, advised he has known Appointee since approximately October, 1959. BRANSDORFER stated his contact with Appointee has been mainly as a constituent of Appointee's Fifth Congressional District. BRANSDORFER described the contact as professional rather than personal. BRANSDORFER advised he is active in Republican politics in Grand Rapids. BRANSDORFER stated he is not sure of Appointee's status in the Michigan Bar Association inasmuch as Appointee is not a practicing attorney at the present time. BRANSDORFER advised Appointee has a good reputation in the community and that he recommends him to the high position to which he has been appointed based on his knowledge of Appointee's character, reputation, loyalty and associates.

## ORGANIZATIONS

AJM:dm-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

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Mr. FLOYD PICKUM, President of the Board, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 830, 557 11th Street, Northwest, furnished the following information:

GERALD R. FORD has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 830, for the past 15 years. During this time Mr. FORD has not held any offices at Post 830 and has not been very active due to his absence from the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area. On a few occasions, Mr. FORD has honored the Post as a guest speaker while a member of Congress and is very highly thought of by the Post Members and was considered a very dedicated, honest and trustworthy representative in the United States Congress.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has no restrictions as to membership regarding race, or religion, but a prospective member, in order to be eligible, must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States in an overseas capacity during certain period of time when the United States was engaged in armed conflicts with foreign nations.

PICKUM advised that he is a stout Democrat, but can only speak favorably in every respect concerning Mr. GERALD R. FORD and knows of no derogatory information concerning him whatsoever. He advised that Mr. FORD is probably one of the most popular Republicans among the Democrat Party and he has never heard of any indiscretions on Mr. FORD's part nor of any allegations of misconduct or corruption.

DE 161-1355  
PWH/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October  
17, 1973:

Mrs. MARIE YONKMAN, President, Women's City  
Club, 254 Fulton, East, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone  
number GL9-3321, home address [redacted], Southeast,  
Grand Rapids, said that although she had met the nominee  
several times, she had no personal knowledge as to his  
background. She said that she had never heard anything derogatory  
about the nominee.

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AJM:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [ ] on October 16, 1973:

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AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

KENNETH A. SHUMAN, Commander, Amvets, Hewitt Madigan, Post 126, 1546 Linden, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished the following information:

The Amvets is a veterans organization whose membership is restricted only by service in the Armed Forces during certain periods of time in which the United States was involved in armed conflict with foreign nations.

Mr. GERALD R. FORD is currently a life member of the Amvets, Post 126, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and has been a member for at least the past eight years to SHUMAN's knowledge. FORD has never held any office in the Amvets and does not actively participate in local Amvets affairs due to his position in Congress in Washington, D.C. Although FORD is a lifetime member which requires no dues, FORD pays his dues on a yearly basis and is very highly thought of by members of the Amvets Post 126.

He has personally known GERALD R. FORD since they both attended high school in Grand Rapids together but he classified FORD only as an acquaintance of his. He knows very little concerning GERALD R. FORD's personal, business and political life other than what he is made aware by the news media but knows of no derogatory information of any nature concerning GERALD R. FORD's character, associates or ability. He believes FORD is an honest man who would make an excellent Vice President or President if the need arose.

AJM:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [ ] on October 16, 1973:

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AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

D.O. STUCK, Commander, American Legion Post 258, 401 North Park Street, Northeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished the following information:

The American Legion is a veterans organization whose membership is restricted only by service in the Armed Forces during certain periods of time in which the United States was involved in armed conflict with foreign nations.

Mr. GERALD R. FORD is currently a member of Post 258 of the American Legion in Grand Rapids and has been a member in good standing for numerous years. FORD occasionally attends meetings at the American Legion Post 258 when he is in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is as active in the legion as is physically possible when he is **not** in Washington, D.C. Mr. FORD has never held any offices in the American Legion, Post 258, but has always been very helpful in his capacity as Congressmen in assisting veterans with various types of problems.

STUCK advised that he does not **personally** know Mr. FORD well enough to comment about his character, loyalty, associates and ability but to his knowledge has never heard any derogatory information of any nature concerning Mr. FORD and believes that he will make an excellent Vice President and has the backing of all of the veteran organizations in the country. STUCK said he has never known Mr. FORD to attempt any indiscretions or to take advantage of his position in the Congress.

AJM:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

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AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Mrs. DIANE WHEELER, Member of the Board of  
Governors, Grand Rapids Press Club, Fry Building,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished the following  
information:

The Grand Rapids Press Club was organized  
in approximately July, 1972, and it is strictly a social  
club designed to unite members of the various news  
media. The membership is not restricted in any manner  
and numerous professional people are associated members  
of the Press Club. Associate members pay annual dues  
of \$100 and are charged a \$5 monthly minimum fee.

GERALD R. FORD joined the Grand Rapids Press  
Club as an associate member on October 3, 1972. Associate  
members are not eligible for office.

She only knows Mr. FORD on a professional  
level and advised that she can only comment favorably  
concerning his character, associations and ability.  
She feels as though Mr. FORD would make a very capable  
and dedicated Vice President.

Mr. FORD has not been very active in the Press  
Club primarily due to his continual absence due to his  
former position in Congress from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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AJM:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 16, 1973:

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AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

LOUISE HANSEN, Manager, University Club of  
Grand Rapids, 1 VandenBerg Center, Ottawa Avenue,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, furnished the following  
information:

The University Club is an exclusive, private, social club whose membership is comprised of predominantly business and professional people in the Grand Rapids area. There are no restrictions regarding membership in the University Club other than a prospective member must be recommended by two other members and then the application is voted upon by the Board of Directors comprised of ten individuals elected by the University Club membership. She personally knows of individuals that have been rejected as prospective members in the University Club because of social background, educational background, and financial status but knows of no individuals who have been rejected membership because of race, creed or religion. There are currently no non-white members at the University Club but there are numerous Negro employees and there is no racial discrimination practiced by the University Club. The initiation fee for new members in the University Club is \$450 and each member is charged dues of \$25 per month plus a ten per cent service charge. New resident members are charged one half of the fees of regular members.

AJM:fln-2  
DE 161-1355

Mr. GERALD R. FORD has been a member of the University Club for approximately the past 15 years and she does not believe he has held any office in the club. He has been a "non-resident" member due to his position in Washington, D.C., but frequents the University Club on occasion when he visits Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In her association with Mr. FORD, she always found him to be a gentleman, very professional in his demeanor and appearance and has never been guilty of any indiscretions at the University Club. She knows of no undesirable associations Mr. FORD has had while frequenting the University Club.

Mrs. HANSEN advised that she considers herself a "loyal Democratic" but feels President NIXON made an excellent choice in selecting GERALD R. FORD as Vice President of the United States. She said that Mr. FORD, although a Republican, is very popular with members of the Democratic Party because of his record in Congress during the past 25 years.

AJM:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

ANDRE J. VAN BRABANT, Manager, Peninsular  
Club, 120 Ottawa, Northwest, furnished the following  
information:

To his knowledge, Mr. FORD has been a member  
of the Peninsular Club since the early 1940s and has  
been an honorable member of the club since he was first  
elected to Congress sometime after World War II. He  
has never held any office in the club and frequents the  
club only three or four times a year either as a guest  
of some regular member or as a speaker.

The Peninsular Club is a gentlemen's club  
for strictly social and business purposes. There are  
a few female members and the club in no way discriminates  
against anyone because of sex, race, religion or creed.  
There is currently one non-white member in the  
**Peninsular Club.**

As long as he has been Manager of the club,  
and in all of his conversations with the various members  
who are a representative cross section of the professional  
and business world, he has never heard of anything  
derogatory concerning Mr. FORD. He considers this very  
unusual in that people always have something to say  
about a member of the community who has been successful  
in the professional, business or political world. Mr.  
FORD has always been a perfect gentleman displaying the  
highest morals, character in his visits to the Peninsular  
Club. He considers Mr. FORD one of the most distinguished  
members of the club and in other members' opinion, Mr.  
FORD is considered an exceptional "gentleman". He is  
regarded as a very intelligent and capable individual who  
always uses discretion in his actions and conversations.

AJM:fln-2  
DE 161-1355

ANDRE VAN BRABANT advised that he considers Mr. GERALD R. FORD an excellent choice for the office of Vice President of the United States.

AJM:fln-1  
DE 161-1355

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids,  
Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

[redacted] Secretary, Malta Lodge # 465,  
Masonic Temple, furnished the following information:

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GERALD R. FORD became a member of the Masons on  
May 18, 1951, and has been a member in good standing  
since this time. Mr. FORD has never held any office  
while a member of the Masons and has not been very active  
primarily due to his United States position in the House  
of Representatives which occupies most of his time in  
Washington.

[redacted] advised that there are no written  
or implied restrictions on membership to the Masons  
regarding race, creed or religion although he said  
there are very few people of the Catholic faith who  
are members of the Masons because of religious conflicts.

He advised that he knows of no information  
of a derogatory nature concerning the character, loyalty,  
associates or ability of GERALD R. FORD. He said that  
he does not personally know GERALD R. FORD very well  
but to his knowledge he is an individual of the highest  
character and a dedicated public servant who devoted  
his life to the service of the United States.



DE 161-1355  
TJN/pjw:clc - 1

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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b7c

The following investigation was conducted by SA

[REDACTED]:

ERNEST MAZEY, Head, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Detroit, Michigan, was contacted and advised that he had no personal knowledge of GERALD R. FORD, and no information which he believed to be pertinent to an FBI inquiry. MAZEY advised that he considered appointee a "terrible choice" for Vice-President as he considered him to be an "anti-civil libertarian". For example, Mr. MAZEY claimed the appointee supported the President's position on wire tapping. Mr. MAZEY continued that the administration should learn that the President and Vice-President also are subject to the law. Mr. MAZEY said that publicly before appropriate Congressional committees the ACLU would take issue with the designation of the appointee, but he had nothing further to say "privately" to the FBI.

DE 161-1355  
RGP:lrc 1

DETROIT LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION - Member

The following represents results of interview conducted on October 16, 1973, concerning Vice President designate GERALD FORD by Special Agent [REDACTED]:

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MIZEL SOWELL, Detroit Legal Aid and Defender Association, 462 Gratiot, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 965-4384, advised that he does not know Representative FORD personally but is familiar with his reputation and congressional record. Mr. SOWELL stated that he is not a member of the same political party as Representative FORD but he has been impressed with his voting record. Mr. SOWELL stated that he knows numerous individuals who associate with Representative FORD, some of whom are Democrats, and all state that Representative FORD is an extremely capable individual with unquestionable character and loyalty.

Concerning civil rights, Mr. SOWELL stated that it is from Representative FORD's congressional record that he has never been a detriment to the civil rights movement.

Mr. SOWELL stated that he would very highly recommend Representative FORD for Vice President of the United States.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

DE 161-1355  
JS/dlc - 1

NEWSCLIPPINGS

The following are Xerox copies of articles  
obtained from the "Detroit News" Library, Detroit,  
Michigan, on October 16, 1973 by SA

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gerald Ford tells how he helped Liddy get a job

"In today's installment of a series on the career of Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy, writers Barry Cunningham and James Norman report that it was a Michigan congressman, Gerald Ford, the House minority leader who was responsible for first getting Liddy to a government job in Washington. Detroit News Washington Bureau Chief J. F. Ter Horst questioned Ford about the incident. This is his report:—

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE DETROIT NEWS  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Date: 7/11/71  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: MARTIN HAYDEN  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: DETROIT  
☐ Being Investigated

By J. F. TER HORST  
Chief of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford admits freely, if somewhat regretfully, that he probably helped G. Gordon Liddy take the first step up the ladder of Watergate fame.

It happened back in the campaign year of 1963 when the Michigan lawmaker traveled to Dutchess County, N.Y., to speak on behalf of Hamilton Fish Jr., Republican candidate for Congress in the Poughkeepsie area, and other GOP office seekers.

Liddy had lost to Fish in the primary after a career as a swashbuckling assistant prosecutor and then was busy promoting the "Citizens for Nixon-Agnew" drive in the county. Ford recalls Liddy as one of the majordomos at the rally at which Ford spoke.

But let the congressman from Grand Rapids tell the story:

"After my talk, the Dutchess County Republican leaders, including Ham Fish, came up to me and asked if I didn't

think that might appeal to Liddy.

"I didn't know him at all, but he seemed energetic and they seemed anxious to help him, so I said I'd see what I could do.

"Well, it turned out the Dutchess County Republicans were anxious to have Liddy move on, out, go some place else. I remember their telling me that he was a political puzzle to them because, for one thing, they didn't know whom he might run against next time."

AFTER THE ADVENT of the Nixon administration in 1969, Ford obtained a resume from Liddy and a handful of endorsement letters from Dutchess County officials, including Fish and County GOP Chairman George Reid, as he recalled Liddy, a former FBI agent, said he would prefer a job in the Justice Department or in the enforcement division of the Treasury Department.

Ford said he sent Liddy's name and the backup material to the White House talent-hunting office, which was then

ested Nixon supporters with jobs in the Administration.

"I also called Gene Rossides at Treasury," Ford recalls. "That may have clinched it for Liddy because he came to Washington to become special assistant to Eugene T. Rossides, then head of the Treasury Department's anti-crime enforcement division, in April, 1969.

"I didn't pay any more attention to him after that," says Ford. "He was just one of the many persons I tried to help get jobs."

Liddy next popped up on Ford's political radar screen as a key figure in the Treasury Department's Operation Intercept, a highly touted administration attempt to halt narcotics smuggling from Mexico. It was aborted eventually after diplomatic controversy with the Mexican government and the return of high-handed and unsuccessful tactics in the border states. Liddy was dismissed from his Treasury Department job in 1971.

"THE NEXT I HEARD about Liddy was when it was

announced that he had been named general counsel of the Committee for the Reelection of the President in 1972," Ford said.

That was after Liddy's stint as a sleuth for the secret White House "plumbers" unit which was set up on President Nixon's orders to ferret out national security leaks. Its work included the break-in in the office of the psychiatrist for Daniel Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers case.

"I wondered about the Committee to Reelect picking Liddy," said Ford, "because by then I'd begun to pick up things, you know, that made me wonder about him."

Liddy, ringleader of the Watergate burglary at Democratic National Committee offices, is serving a six-to-20-year federal sentence for the break-in, as well as a contempt sentence for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

By JAMES R. POLK  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford, of Michigan, failed to report \$11,500 in campaign contributions last fall from stockbrokers, an oilman, bankers, doctors and a union group.

Instead, the checks given to Ford were detoured through Republican headquarters here while roughly the same amount — \$12,502 was being fed back to Ford's district to pay off postelection debts.

Through this two-step procedure, names of the donors were not listed on Ford's sworn campaign report to Congress, although the money flowed through his hands.

The corrupt practices act requires full public disclosure of all campaign contributions received with a candidate's knowledge or consent.

In an interview, Ford defended his procedures in handling campaign checks as being "within the law."

The Grand Rapids congressman said he signed the checks over to the GOP because he had reached his state's legal limit on the money his own campaign committee could handle. He said he had no knowledge of the GOP giving back more than \$12,000 to other Ford committees.

Not listed on Ford's report to the House were:

- A \$5,000 check from the Securities Industry Campaign Committee. The endorsement on the check shows it was signed over to the GOP headquarters before the postelection payouts began. The \$5,000 donation to Ford was the largest single contribution made by the Wall Street stockbrokers' fund.
- A \$2,000 check from the Bankers Political Action Committee, whose money was refused by nearly half the intended recipients in a controversy over a pending bill on bank regulation.
- A \$3,000 check from John M. Shaheen, head of a New York City oil firm with refineries in Canada, California and Arkansas.
- A \$1,000 check from the political arm of the Boilermakers-Blacksmiths Union, with national headquarters in Kansas City, Kan.
- A \$500 check from the Michigan Doctors Political Action Committee.

Unlike most candidates, Ford acted as treasurer of his main campaign group, the "Ford for Congress Committee," and therefore was bound by the corrupt practices act to file a complete report of its money dealings.

However, Ford said, "I would say, under the interpretation of the law as it has been interpreted over the years, that my action was within the law." He did not elaborate.

In the 45-year history of the corrupt practices act the Justice Department has never brought a court case against a congressman for campaign wrongdoing.

The \$11,500 in Ford campaign contributions was turned over to the Republican Congressional Committee in a 10-day period just before and after the Nov. 3 election.

A second group, the Republican National Finance Advisory Committee, which is run by the same man at GOP headquarters, sent four checks totaling \$6,760 to two other Grand Rapids committees, "Latvians for Ford" and "Veterans for Ford," last Nov. 4 and Nov. 20.

It also paid a \$3,697 bill to Insight Inc., in Grand Rapids, which handled Ford's campaign advertising. And the congressional fund paid a \$1,775 printing bill in Grand Rapids.

Ford said he personally signed over the checks that his "Ford for Congress Committee" rerouted to the GOP.

"After we reached the \$10,500 limit set by Michigan law, I would endorse checks over to the congressional committee. After that, I had no knowledge of how the Latvians got their money," Ford said.

He said in past years the GOP had used the excess checks he signed over to it to help out other Republican House candidates in campaign trouble.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

WASHINGTON — Presidential hopeful Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Maine Democrat, and House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford are listed as receiving donations from a controversial bank campaign fund whose money was turned by 18 other congressmen.

The Bankers Political Action Committee, now under investigation on the fronts, told Congress in a recent report it wound up with \$120,000 it couldn't give away.

At least 10 representatives, all serving on the House Banking Committee, and two senators are listed as turning down checks from the bank group.

But the final report by the campaign fund shows six other senators and 37 congressmen received a total of \$17,000 in contributions, almost all of it in the last few days before the election.

Muskie, a member of the Senate Banking Committee, got \$2,500 in campaign help from the group.

Ford and Democratic Whip Hale Boggs, of Louisiana, were listed as receiving bank fund contributions of \$2,000 each.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

WASHINGTON — Four major defense contractors and an oil firm have executive-suite political funds that pass out campaign donations to senators and congressmen but fail to report them, in possible violation of federal law.

fund at Ling-Temco-Vought (LTV), the aerospace giant in Dallas, gave \$1000,000 to political races last fall, with one check for \$200,000 going to House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan.

Executives of Olin Corp., which makes ammunition for the military, chipped in for 54 Senate and House races in 34 states.

**OTHER FUNDS**, raised by passing the hat among a company's executives, were found at McDonnell Douglas, Northrop and Union Oil.

None of the funds filed a public report with Congress.

The corrupt practices act requires "any committee, association or organization" giving to House or Senate contests in two or more states to submit to Congress an itemized list of all donations.

Officials of several of the funds said they did not feel legally required to make the public reports. Each of the five funds did shell out for congressional races in at least two states, and often for many more.

At Union Oil in Los Angeles, where executives' money was pumped to races in 22 states last fall, a top official said the reason for a contribution is to have access to a politician's office afterward.

"We're not trying to buy votes," he said. "We're trying to buy an entrée to talk about our problems."

The existence of the executive funds was uncovered by The Associated Press combining through hundreds of candidates' reports on the money they received in the last campaign.

**ONE COMMITTEE** for Rep. Ford in his hometown of Grand Rapids raised \$2,000 from "F. Mann, Dallas, Tex." The listing was traced eventually to Forbes Mann, president of LTV Aerospace Corp., who had brought the check in to Ford personally.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

We marvel that Rep. Gerald Ford, a member of Congress since 1949, would become vulnerable to a reporter's charges that he failed to report campaign contributions. A veteran of the House, he knows the loopholes in the corrupt practices act as well as anybody else.

Theoretically, the act requires that a candidate disclose in full all campaign contributions received with his knowledge and consent. In practice, candidates normally avoid personal "knowledge" simply by funneling funds through local campaign committees which need not report their activities at the federal level.

Ford apparently is guilty of having neglected to use the standard procedures by which congressmen evade the law. Perhaps he got lulled into a false sense of security by the fact that the corrupt practices act has never been enforced in the 46 years since its passage.

True, members of Congress and officials in the Justice Department experience spasms of virtue — but get over them. In 1968, House Clerk W. Pat Jennings complained about some Republican candidates and committees. Ramsey Clark passed the matter on to his successor, Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, who thought it over for a few months and decided not to break tradition.

In fairness to Mitchell and previous attorneys general, it must be stressed that true enforcement would be impossible. Only the few honest men would suffer.

In fairness to Rep. Ford, it should be recognized that he merely failed to use the loopholes congressmen usually use to protect themselves from the sort of bad publicity which has now befallen him.

If there's going to be a law aimed at preventing corrupt practices in campaign spending, it should be a serious law, not one universally recognized as a political farce.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12. -- Democratic plans to exploit James R. Hoffa's connections with the Republican Party in Michigan brought a swift reply from Senator Potter (R-Mich.).

Potter and Rep. Ford (R-Mich.), both expected to seek re-election next year, denied any connections with the Detroit labor leader.

The denials came after an announcement by Neil Staechler, Michigan Democratic chairman, that the party will use what he termed links between the Michigan GOP and Hoffa as a 1959 election campaign issue.

"Hoffa never supported me," Potter said when told of Staechler's comments at a news conference here yesterday. "The Democrats must be pretty hard up for an issue if they are going to try this sort of guilt by association."

"Mr. Hoffa never has participated in any way in the Republican Party in western Michigan," Ford said. "and I believe the head of the Teamsters local union in Grand Rapids, Mr. Pat Mackie, at one time was a member of the Kent County Democratic organization."

Ford contended that the alleged Hoffa-Republican alliance could not be made an effective campaign issue "because Mr. Hoffa was never affiliated with the Republican Party."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Justice Department has said two ship lines gave a total \$500 in illegal campaign contributions to key members of Senate and House committees that control the flow of federal aid to the firms.

The Justice Department was alerted as having received contributions from the ship lines are Rep. G. M. Ford, of Grand Island, and Rep. Elford A. Garmatz, of Detroit, City Republican.

The far more contributions totaling \$500 went to Rep. Edward A. Garmatz, Maryland Democrat, chairman of the House Merchant Marine Committee. Another \$1,000 was given to Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, Washington Democrat, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

In addition both House Republican leader Ford and Democratic power Hale Boggs were among 15 congressmen and senators to whom campaigns the shipping firms have pleaded guilty to giving illegal donations.

**TIM GARMATZ**, and Magnuson committees approve subsidy programs which pay \$200 million a year in federal aid to American cargo and passenger ships. A House appropriations subcommittee actually voted the subsidy funds, and other checks went for the top four members of this panel.

The legislators' names were kept secret when the two firms, American President Lines and Pacific Far East Lines, were fined \$50,000 each — the maximum penalty — in Federal Court Feb. 6. They were charged under the corrupt practices act, which forbids campaign donations by corporations.

Among those identified in the closely guarded files is Rep. L. Boudel Rivers, South Carolina Democrat, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who is listed as getting a \$200 campaign check from the firm. It was left out of the panel.

The Justice Department had disclosed the names of the congressmen and senators because government attorneys said there was no indication they knew the contributions they received were illegal.

The checks were funneled from a special bank account through a public relations lobby.

Asked about the checks, most of the various congressmen said they were unaware of accepting any unlawful contributions.

One check for \$500 went for Rep. Robert L. F. Sikes, Florida Democrat, when he was unopposed for reelection in 1966.

The check, payable to Sikes' campaign committee, appears to have been endorsed by Sikes when it was cashed through Congress' own bank in the Capitol.

The \$500 did not show up that year in a list, published in the Congressional Quarterly, of the campaign contributions reported by candidates in sworn statements to the House.

Sikes said he would have to check his records, but added, "If I accepted an illegal contribution, I intend to refund it."

The Justice Department files, which includes copies of the canceled checks, also list a \$100 contribution made for Ford; \$200 for Boggs, who is House Democratic whip; and \$100 for the GOP whip, Rep. Leslie C. Arends of Illinois.

**FORD SAID**, "It is my policy never to accept a contribution from a corporation and I have followed that policy religiously."

The two San Francisco firms' contributions, counting the smaller checks to Ford and others not on the shipping committees, totaled at least \$3,500 and ranged from 1966 to 1963. They included:

• \$1,000 for Garmatz from American President Lines and \$500 for Pacific Far East. Garmatz has represented Baltimore's waterfront district in Congress since 1947 and took over the House Merchant Marine Committee half a year before the illegal checks were given in 1966.

• A total of \$1,000 — half from each firm — for Rep. William S. Mailhard, the top-ranking Republican on Garmatz's committee. Mailhard, a Navy Reserve rear admiral from San Francisco, said he never handled campaign contributions personally. He said, "If my campaign committee received a check signed by an individual, they would have assumed it was legal."

• \$1,000 for Senator Magnuson from American President Lines prior to his 1968 race for reelection. An aide to Magnuson said all his contributions also were handled through a campaign treasurer and added, "The senator has no personal knowledge of receiving any such check."

• \$800 for Rep. John J. Rooney, New York Democrat, a Brooklyn veteran of a quarter-century in Congress, now chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee which funds the flow of subsidies for shipping firms. Rooney said he didn't recall ever receiving checks from any corporation.

• \$800 for Rep. Frank T. Bow, of Ohio, the senior Republican on both Rooney's subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee. Bow said the checks, signed by the public relations man as an individual were brought in by the two lobbyists and turned over to his campaign committee. He said, "We have no knowledge whatsoever that this was a corporation contribution."

• \$300 for Cederberg. Sikes is the second-ranking Democrat and Cederberg the No. 2 Republican on the same appropriations subcommittee.

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Cederberg, a 17-year-House veteran, said the \$300 check went directly to his campaign committee treasurer and was listed on his records as coming from "Noah M. Brinson, Washington, D.C."

"There's no way in the world for me to know that this didn't come from an individual," he said yesterday. "The check was an individual's check. There's no way anyone could know it was a corporate contribution. As far as I'm concerned, it was from an individual."

o \$500 each for Senators Daniel B. Brewster, Maryland Democrat, and Thomas H. Kuchel, California Republican, both of whom were beaten in their 1968 races. Brewsters, currently under indictment for bribery in an unrelated case, was a key Senate supporter of shipping interests.

o \$500 for the late Rep. Glenard P. Lipscomb, California Republican. Ironically, American President Lines pleaded guilty to this count along with the others, even though the indictment was in error and listed the Lipscomb check as involving a congressional race in the wrong state, Colorado.

o \$100 each for Reps. Thomas L. Ashley, Ohio Democrat, and Jack Edwards, Alabama Republican, both members of the House Merchant Marine Committee when the contributions were made. An Edwards aide said the check would not have been accepted if the campaign staff had known it came from a corporation.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

10-A—THE DETROIT NEWS—Monday, Oct. 15, 1973

# U.S. committed to Israel, says Gerald Ford

From UPI and AP Dispatches

SALT LAKE CITY — Vice-President-designate Gerald R. Ford said yesterday that the United States was "fulfilling its commitments" in helping Israel but he hoped there would be a cease-fire to open diplomatic negotiations.

Ford told newsmen in an interview aboard an Air Force plane en route to Salt Lake City from Washington that "until there is some resolution to the fighting or a stalemate, the parties will not negotiate."

"Certainly," he said, "it is in the best interests of all the parties to stop the killing."

In Tremonton, about 15 miles from Utah State University, the vice-president-designate had trouble recognizing his son, John Gardner Ford, because the 21-year-old college student had grown a beard.

The younger Ford is a forestry student at USU in Logan.

Ford is making two speeches in Portland, Ore., today.

"I want a cease-fire but the parties involved must make that determination," the House GOP leader said. "I am not advocating a military victory before negotiations can start."

Ford said he hoped the Senate and House committee considering his vice-presidential nomination "won't hang fire too long. I don't have a time element but I would hope we can move expeditiously."

He said he had a busy schedule set for October, but his nomination by President Nixon as his No. 2 man would probably cancel 50 percent of it.

Earlier he was a special guest at White House worship services and talked with reporters in the East Room.

In Las Vegas, Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., said yesterday the United States should send whatever war material Israel needs.

"If we provide Israel with equipment, there is no need for the United States to be brought into the war," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ford outlines hopes as pressure builds

By RICHARD A. RYAN  
News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — It had been an exhausting day for Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., and now it was well after midnight and the new vice-presidential nominee had a moment to relax.

Only three hours earlier President Nixon had announced to the nation that the 60-year-old veteran congressman from Grand Rapids was his choice to become the country's 40th vice-president. Ford had learned of his selection only 50 minutes before the President's historic announcement.

After the announcement, Ford attended a White House reception in his honor where he greeted and chatted with several of his congressional colleagues, members of the President's Cabinet and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

BUT NOW Ford was home, relaxing in his favorite easy chair in his comfortable but unpretentious house in suburban Alexandria, Va.

With his feet propped up on a stool and sipping occasionally from a cocktail, Ford talked of his upcoming confirmation proceedings in Congress, his hopes and goals as vice-president, and his future.

And he also talked about the recent death of his beloved dog, Sugar, and his intention to attend "Red Flannel Day" Saturday in Cedar Springs, Mich., as he has for so many years.

Outside, neighbors gathered to stare at the Ford home and talk quietly of the new celebrity in their midst and what changes it might occasion in the neighborhood.

Already, one change was in progress. A power company crew was running electric lines into a hastily purchased Secret Service command post, a small blue van parked at the

## 'I have no intention of running for any political office in 1976'

INSIDE THE HOUSE, Ford talked quietly to his visitors as his 16-year-old daughter, Susan, listened and the family Siamese cat, Shan, bounded around the living room.

Ford already had been on the phone talking to family and friends, he said. But the first call he made on returning to his home from the White House was to former Vice-President Agnew, the man who he was chosen to succeed. Agnew had called earlier and left a message.

"He was very kind and congratulated me on my nomination," Ford said. "And I expressed my gratitude to him for his friendship and wished him and his family the very best in the dark days ahead."

FORD IS CONFIDENT he is bringing a new dimension to the Nixon administration — a man who knows Congress, having spent 25 years there, and a man who can help soothe the open wounds that exist between Congress and the President.

"The rapport I have in the Congress, particularly in the House and hopefully in the Senate, is the best asset I have for the President and I intend to work hard at it," he said.

He considers the greatest challenge in his new role as vice-president, if he is confirmed, is the job of guiding President Nixon's legislative programs through the Democratic-controlled Congress.

Many presidential legislative initiatives have been stalled because of interparty wrangling, Ford is hopeful that he can persuade his congressional friends to help break the legislative logjam.

TO THE INEVITABLE question as to his future plans — will he be a presidential candidate in 1976? — Ford is quick to respond.

"I have no intention of running for any political office in 1976," he answers. But he stops short of flatly declaring that he will not be a candidate.

Some Democrats have suggested the vice-presidential nominee should pledge before confirmation that he will not run for the presidency in 1976. But Ford indicated he would not make such a definite pledge.

"I can't be any firmer than to say very emphatically and very strongly that I have no

intention to run for any political office in 1976," he asserted.

BUT FORD is only too well aware that before he can even think about 1976 or help with the President's legislative programs, he must first be confirmed by both the House and Senate.

While no one sees any difficulty in his confirmation, he no doubt will be subjected to the greatest scrutiny ever given to a vice-presidential nominee.

The congressional committees almost certainly will look into charges made by New York lobbyist Robert N. Winter-Berger that Ford assisted him in his lobbying activities in exchange for political contributions. The charges were contained in Winter-Berger's book, "The Washington Payoff."

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FORD SAID he expects and welcomes the congressional inquiry and insists it is the duty of Congress to conduct such an investigation.

"I would not want them to give me a cursory examination," he asserted. "I want Congress to do for me what it would do for anyone else who was nominated."

If the Winter-Berger matter comes up in the congressional inquiry, Ford said, he would be glad to discuss it. Winter-Berger even said in his book that Ford never accepted any money but only suggested that a contribution be made to a political committee.

While he was not asked anything about the matter by the White House, Ford said he assumed "they checked me out pretty good."

"As far as I'm concerned," he said, "my life is an open book. I will try and comply in any and every way to anything they ask."

Ford said he was greatly encouraged about the chances of his confirmation by the warm words of congratulations he received from Democrats after he was announced as the President's choice.

For example, he said, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, D-Minn., a former vice-president himself, called to say he was "very happy" about my nomination.

DURING the conversation, Ford talked of many things, including the recent "tragic" death of his golden retriever, Sugar.

The dog apparently had eaten something poisonous in the neighborhood and died shortly afterwards, despite the efforts of a veterinarian.

"It is sort of lonesome around the house now," he said sadly. "Sugar was our longtime friend."

There was no doubt Ford wanted the vice-presidential nomination. He admitted that he talked to presidential adviser and former House colleague Melvin Laird about the possibilities.

Ford said he told Laird he was not particularly campaigning for the job and that he loved the House of Representatives but added that if the President should ask him to take the job, "I don't think I could say no."

Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, a close friend and colleague from Cadillac, Mich., said he had dinner with Ford the night before the nomination and that "Jerry acted like the bird who is about to be proposed to."

But it wasn't until 7:50 P.M. Friday night that White House Chief of Staff Alexander Haig officially notified Ford that he was the President's choice.

IT HAS LONG been known that Ford's greatest ambition had been to be speaker of the House. But with the Democrats firmly in control of the House there is little chance that Republicans could gain a majority in the 1974 elections. And Ford said he was not sure that he would have run for office again in 1976.

And so, with little chance to achieve his ambition, Ford sought and received the vice-presidential nomination.

"I've always believed that if you can't make headway . . . you ought to look around and

maybe go elsewhere," he explained.

AN AIDE REMINDED Ford that he had a busy day Saturday, including attending the House session to receive his own nomination, being briefed on the MidEast War by President Nixon and his advisers and to attend "Red Flannel Day" in Cedar Springs, a small community in Kent County outside Grand Rapids.

Each year, Ford explained, the community celebrates the fact that it has an underwear factory and bills itself as the "Red Flannel Capital of the World."

Everyone is required to wear something red or go to jail," Ford said. "So I think I'll wear something red."



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Nomination of Ford is opposed by ADA

From UPI and AP Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The first organized opposition to Gerald R. Ford's nomination as vice-president surfaced today. At the same time, Congress began a two-stage confirmation process which could take a month to complete.

The liberal group, Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), said its national board voted

unanimously at a meeting here yesterday "to oppose confirmation of Congressman Gerald Ford as vice-president."

Key congressional figures in both parties, however, have predicted that, barring the uncovering of some so-far-undisclosed flaw in his record, the 60-year-old House GOP leader

should have an easy time being confirmed as the successor to Spiro T. Agnew.

An Associated Press poll showed that at least 57 senators and 225 House members plan to vote for the nomination, barring derogatory disclosures. In the Senate 51 votes are needed for a majority while in the House 218 votes would be needed.

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"Congress should require a full investigation into the allegations of mishandling of the nominee's campaign funds," ADA said.

So far, the only question raised publicly about Ford's campaign finances concerns an \$11,500 contribution to his 1970 campaign which he allegedly did not report to the clerk of the House.

Ford told reporters Saturday the incident could be "adequately explained." He said the money exceeded the amount his personal campaign committee was allowed to receive, and that he signed it over to Republican National Headquarters for use in behalf of other candidates. He invited committees considering his confirmation to look "fully" into the incident.

The first step of the congressional process is a thorough check of the Michigan congressman's personal and professional life by the FBI and other investigators, requested by the House Judiciary and Senate Rules committees. This is expected to take about two weeks.

Then the two committees will hold separate hearings, a process which some sources say could take up to two more weeks. The committee chairmen, Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., and Rep. Peter Rodino, D-N.J., have agreed to allow live television coverage of the hearings.

Sen. Robert P. Griffin, R-Mich., assistant GOP Senate leader, said yesterday Ford should be confirmed within a week or so after the FBI report. "Three, four, five weeks is much too long, unless you get into some kind of substantial question," Griffin said.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said Congress should act with "dispatch" but not "haste" on the nomination, taking "whatever time is adequate."

Griffin and Byrd were interviewed on ABC's "Issues and Answers."

Griffin proposed that in the future Congress have the final say on who will be vice-president to insure that the party nominee gets more careful scrutiny. He said he may propose a constitutional amendment to permit a vice-president to be nominated after the president is elected but before inauguration. The president, under Griffin's plan, would submit his vice-presidential nomination to Congress for confirmation or perhaps give Congress a choice of three names. Meanwhile, Griffin said, both parties can do a more careful job at their conventions.

The ADA said: "The apparent popularity of a nominee should not cause Congress to act quickly. . . Congress must remember the candidates normally are subjected for months to public scrutiny during the campaign and election in the usual political process. . . That process is not now available. Therefore Congress must provide an effective substitute, recognizing that it is acting as surrogate for the electorate."

Republican National Chairman George Bush said yesterday he thinks President Nixon did

the "smart" thing in nominating Ford to be vice-president and steering clear of top 1976 presidential possibilities.

"Had the President gone to one of the obvious front runners for '76, the party itself could have been divided before the '74 elections," Bush said.

He said he believes the Ford nomination will "preserve a very open field of very qualified people to run in 1976." He added that he believes Ford also fits that description. "I think he is eminently qualified."

Bush was interviewed on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation."

Asked if he didn't think the Republicans were giving up the advantage of having a vice-president who would be ready to run for the presidency by having Ford, an avowed 1976 noncandidate, Bush said:

"I'm not sure the criterion should have been for the President to anoint a successor. . . In fact it's smart that it wasn't."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Cash came from unused campaign contributions Ford funds aided other GOP candidates

By SETH KANTOR  
News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Congressman Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, President Nixon's vice-presidential nominee, has stated that he and two other House leaders met privately and agreed last year to funnel off their own unused political contributions in order to help other candidates get elected.

Ford made the disclosure to The Detroit News last night in his Capitol Hill office shortly after an FBI agent had left the office. The agent had met privately with Ford for more than an hour as the first step in paving the way toward congressional approval of Ford's credentials.

Ford, the House minority leader, said he and two Democrats — House Speaker Carl Albert and the late House Majority Leader Hale Boggs — decided they would supply excess funds, earmarked by contributors for their own reelections, to others campaigning for offices in and out of Congress.

What it means is that \$100, for instance, sent to a Ford political committee could have wound up helping foot the bill for a losing contender in Iowa without the contributor ever knowing it.

Ford said the money spinoff plan agreed to by Albert, Boggs, and Ford came at a time when a new law covering political contributions went into effect for the 1972 elections.

"We decided," said Ford, "to do it that way so that if we all did it wrong, then we'd all be guilty."

Ford estimated that he designated \$24,000 to \$25,000 of his campaign funds to the campaigns of other politicians—including the campaigns of three men running for the Michigan Legislature. In all cases the Ford funds went to Republicans.

An aide to Ford, when asked about the "donation," said:

"We assume they (the Ford contributors) are enthusiastic Republicans — anxious to help other Republicans like Jerry Ford. He (Ford) would not make a contribution to any but the right kind of Republicans."

Federal examiners have begun what could be an intensive look into the affairs of Ford following Mr. Nixon's announcement last Friday that the 25-year veteran of Congress was his choice to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice-president.

The House Republican leader faces hearings in the House and Senate in the days ahead before the President can win required congressional approval of his choice.

Ford said the new campaign contributions law, in effect in 1972, had "set no limit on money collected by political committees" in last year's campaigns.

He said, "Albert, Boggs and I were faced with the same problem. We were getting more money than we could spend."

He said the three leaders agreed one day on the House floor to funnel off their excess contributions to others.

Ford then approved the allocation of his excess funds to out-of-date political campaigns from the two committees set up in Grand Rapids to collect contributions for Ford. They were the Friends of Jerry Ford Committee and the Ford for Congress Committee.

Funds were siphoned from those two committees into the campaigns of Republican losers in Iowa, Colorado and Utah, as well as to GOP winners in Mississippi, Nebraska and Minnesota.

Sen. Robert P. Griffin, R-Mich., a longtime political ally of Ford, was tested in a tough reelection fight. His campaign was furnished at least \$5,000 by the two Ford committees, records show.

The campaigns of three western Michigan

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I. A  
THE DETROIT NEWS  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Date: 10/17/73  
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Author: SETH KANTOR  
Editor: MARTIN HAYDEN  
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365

men, running for the Michigan Legislature, were enriched on Oct. 16, 1972, with funds designated for Ford.

Richard Both of Belmont, Daniel B. Hess of Sparta and Jacob G. Hoagsman of Wyoming, Mich., were the lucky candidates. Their campaigns were given \$100 each in Ford contributions. Both won his contest. The other two lost.

Sherman Lloyd lost his bid for reelection to Congress from Utah last Nov. 7 after the Ford for Congress Committee supplied the Lloyd campaign with \$2,250.

A pair of Iowa incumbents lost their congressional seats, despite \$500 to Fred Schwengel and \$1,000 to John H. Kyl from the Ford coffers.

Some, but not all, Republican members of the Michigan congressional delegation were helped by the Ford committees. Among those aided were Garry Brown, \$500; Charles F. Chamberlain, \$1,000; Marvin L. Esch, \$500; James Harvey, \$750; and Robert J. Huber, \$500.

Other political contributions to Ford's campaign made their way to Rep. William E. Minshall (\$1,000), a winner in Ohio; Rep. John M. Zwach (\$500), who won in Minnesota; and Trent Lott (\$1,000), who now is a freshman congressman from Mississippi.

Among other recipients of the Ford funds were loser James D. McKeivitt in Colorado (\$500) and winner Charles Thone in Nebraska (\$500).

Ford said last night he "assumed Hale Boggs was doing the same thing" with contributions to the Boggs campaign at the time the House majority leader from Louisiana disappeared on a flight along the coast of Alaska nearly a year ago.

Ford also said Speaker Albert encouraged the idea of the three men spreading their own campaign contributions to other campaigns.

A check of the records of the two Ford committees shows that heavy amounts of contributions to the 1972 campaign of the Grand Rapids congressman came from organizations and business executives outside Michigan.

"I'm kind of proud I got it from both ends of the spectrum—money from labor and business," said Ford. "I'm just glad I didn't have to spend it all on my own campaign."

Contributions to the Ford campaign commit-

tees ranged from \$2,500 that came from the political action arm of the nation's commercial bankers in Arlington, Va., to the \$2,000 from the Teamsters' political fund in Washington.

As a national figure, from the standpoint of power on Capitol Hill, Ford attracted strong financial backing from far beyond his politically conservative district.

The new campaign contributions law, which went into effect April 7, 1972, requires that political committee reports to Congress include the name, address and profession of each contributor, as well as each amount given.

Before the April 7 cutoff there had been a Committee to Reelect Jerry Ford. It was based in Washington, and it collected \$38,216.61 from unnamed contributors.

Among the itemized contributions to the two Ford committees in Grand Rapids after April 7 were:

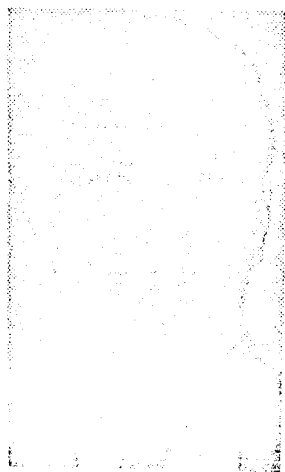
- \$600 from the two top officials of a shipbuilding company in New Orleans.
- \$7,500 from the political action committees of two New York-based maritime union groups of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association.
- \$1,350 from a group of General Dynamics Corp. officials in Connecticut and California.
- \$500 from the Boilermakers-Blacksmiths Legislative Education Action Committee in Washington.
- \$500 from a group of executives of the Armco Steel Corp. of Middletown, Ohio.

Smaller donations came from such places as Belle Glade, Fla., \$400 from the South Florida Sugar Committee, and from Rosemont, Ill. \$500 from the Railway Clerks Political League.

While Grand Rapids businessman Bill Moulton contributed \$1 to the Ford campaign last year, there were contributions to the Ford committees of \$2,545 from Joseph M. Segal of Merion, Pa., the president of Franklin Mint, Inc.; \$1,000 from a New York Park Avenue lawyer, David S. Smith; and \$2,500 from Richard M. Scaife, a Pittsburgh publisher.

Several organizations that normally concentrate on getting liberal Democrats reelected to Congress also decided to contribute to the 1972 Ford campaign.

These ranged from the Recording Arts Political Action Committee in Washington, which gave the Ford campaign \$250, to the Restaurateurs and Oral Surgery political action committees in Chicago, which gave \$1,000 apiece.



GERALD R. FORD

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Nothing shady in his background, Ford declares

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Vice President-designate Gerald R. Ford said Saturday he knows of nothing in his past that could prove embarrassing to him, including a diversion of \$11,500 in 1970 campaign contributions.

Ford said at a news conference that questions raised about the 1970 campaign contribution are the only thing he knows about will be gone into fully at his confirmation hearings in Congress — "and it should be gone into fully."

Ford said his official report of the contributions was correct because he turned the \$11,500 over to the congressional committee for use in other Republicans' campaigns, not his own.

"They weren't reported (to the House clerk) because I didn't spend them in my campaign," Ford said. "In order to get that money to other candidates I turned it over to the congressional campaign committee."

FORD SAID neither the Presi-

*The \$11,500 in contributions  
"weren't reported because I didn't  
spend them in my campaign"*

dent nor anyone on Mr. Nixon's staff had asked him whether there was anything in his past that would be embarrassing if publicly disclosed.

Ford said the closest the President came to that was to smile and ask, "How's your health?"

"Well, how is it?" a reporter asked the robust 60-year-old former football player.

"Just great," Ford replied.

He said he owns \$9,000 in stocks and bonds, some of which he said he inherited when his father died. He said those bonds were for his father's paint company, now merged with a Detroit paint firm.

He said he also is on the board of the Label Mynatie-

turing Co. in Grand Rapids, Mich., a post which he said he will now resign. He said the post paid \$1,500 a year expenses for attending meetings.

A former lawyer, Ford said he has no outside law practice now.

He said he owns three pieces of property — a home in the Washington suburbs, a home in Grand Rapids, his hometown, and a condominium at Vail, Colo., where he and his family stay every Christmas.

FORD SAID he will turn his income tax reports over to the House and Senate committees considering his confirmation if they want to see them.

Ford has acknowledged that he received campaign money

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

*Detroit  
News*

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Editor:  
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from a number of special-interest groups, including bankers, stockbrokers, a labor union fund, doctors and an oil man.

After the 1970 election, Ford certified to the clerk of the House that the \$10,500 in contributions he had reported were the only contributions to his campaign of which he had knowledge.

FORD HAS SAID, however, that an additional \$11,500 had come in and had been turned over by him to the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee in the 10 days before and after the election.

He said this had been done because the money exceeded the \$10,500 limit set by Michigan state law.

At about the same time, the Republican campaign committee pumped \$12,333 back into Ford's district to pay postelection campaign debts.

Ford, who acted as his own campaign treasurer, said in a 1971 interview that he had personally endorsed the checks that were turned over to the GOP campaign committee in Washington.

"I would say that under the interpretation of the law as it has been interpreted over the years, my action was within the law," Ford said in the interview. He did not elaborate.

Ford's sworn report to the House said in part: "I hereby certify that the following is a correct and itemized account of each contribution received by me or by any person for me with my knowledge and consent..."

THE CHECKS turned over to the GOP Congressional report were:

\* A \$5,000 check from the "Invited" in Ford's sworn Campaign Committee and not Securities Industry Campaign Committee, a political fund for stockbrokers.

\* \$1,000 from oilman John M. Shaheen.

\* \$2,000 from the Banker's Political Action Committee, a fund for banks which opposed a regulatory bill eventually passed by Congress.

\* \$1,000 from the political arm of the Boilermakers-

Blacksmith Union, which has headquarters in Kansas City, Kan.

\* \$500 from the Michigan Doctors' Political Action Committee.

All the checks were listed by the Republican Congressional

Campaign Committee as being received between Oct. 30 and Nov. 9, 1970.

Ford said he did not know about the flow of more than \$10,000 into his district after the election and had no idea how it had come about.

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NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

On October 17, 1973, a review of newspaper articles, regarding Representative GERALD R. FORD was conducted at the "Detroit Free Press", Detroit, Michigan, and the following were obtained by SA [redacted]  
[redacted]:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Thoughts on the Man Gerald Ford

Moving along I-96 and US-27 this last weekend, one was reminded of how it seems to watch a gentle, rippling sea that suddenly builds into a roaring, exciting crescendo.

Only this time, it was simply observing nature as it spread its magic color wand through one stand of trees after another, leaving the impression of flowing browns and reds and many shades of yellow, amid the usual patches of cool green.

It was supposed to be the peak of the color season in northern Michigan and after years of promising ourselves that we should feast our eyes on such beauty, my wife and I finally went with friends Shirley and Ralph Lee to add to their enthusiasm.

It was a case of seeing is appreciating because words finally can only suggest what the eye can absorb.

IT WAS AFTER we had barely savored such natural wonders as we drove north Friday afternoon, and had feasted on an excellent shrimp dinner at Juilleret's in Petoskey, that we also had a chance to sit in on the man-made drama implicit in President Nixon's choice of a new vice-president.

Earlier in the day I had been shown a wire report that said Hugh Scott, Republican leader in the Senate, had indicated by a shake of his head to reporters that Gerald Ford would not get the nomination. So the choice came as a complete surprise.

But I must admit to a certain positive, parochial reaction because a man from Michigan had made the grade.

Ford's selection also brought back some personal memories of my contacts with him, the most interesting being the time he came at my invitation to Columbus, O., to be the main speaker for a regional conference of newspapermen.

It was April, 1946, and Ford had been minority leader of the House of Representatives little more than a year. It was also a national election year, the first since Lyndon Johnson's tremendous landslide of 1964.

AS WE SAT IN HIS room and chatted, Ford told of the scores and scores of speeches he had been making in trying to rally Republican groups across the country, and he was predicting a major comeback that November. The gains fell short of what he desired, but he was sure that he was well rewarded for his efforts.

With this about his own career, which he insisted was firmly rooted in the House of Representatives, and about his family and his concerns for

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

7A

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS  
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320



the country.

The other night a Republican leader put into words the kind of reaction I got from my contact with him.

"Jerry's a solid, hard-working, decent man," said Sen. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., commenting after Mr. Nixon's announcement.

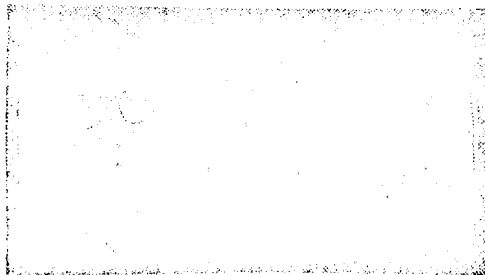
The guess here is that this sort of thing will come through more and more as time goes by and that eventually Gerald Ford will be, whether he likes it or not, thrust deeper into a major political role. Because if there's anything that characterizes this country at this moment in history, it's the quest for just such a kind of person.

It rained Saturday morning, but by 10 it had cleared and by 2 p.m. the sun was out, so we had a chance to see nature's handiwork against a backdrop of dark clouds at one moment and reflecting the brilliance of the sun in the next.

Then we reversed the procedure coming home Sunday.

Despite a beautifully warm, sunny day, as we approached Detroit the visual beauty began to fade and there was the reality of hearing on the car's radio of word that the teachers strike still went on, of war in the Middle East, and of the Detroit Lions losing another.

But still there was the memory — and the knowledge that in a few days as the trees in the North become barren and stark against the sky, Detroit, the city of trees, also will get its chance to bask in the beauty produced by nature's magic color wand.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

As We See It

# Selection of Gerald Ford Is Practical for Nixon

PRESIDENT NIXON'S nomination of Gerald R. Ford as vice president seemed motivated primarily to avoid further divisiveness in the Congress or further dissension in the country.

From that standpoint, Mr. Nixon may well have made the wisest choice, despite the fact that of all those of national stature and reputation who must have been considered as a successor to Spiro T. Agnew, Mr. Ford does not stand out as the strongest potential president. That is and should be the main criteria for the office of vice president.

By picking one of Congress' own, and a man of long tenure and leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Nixon probably assured that Mr. Ford's nomination will be confirmed by Congress with relative ease. The bipartisan approval voiced for the selection by congressional leaders makes that abundantly clear.

Here at home in Michigan, which Mr. Ford has represented in the Congress for 25 years, his nomination is certain to be applauded almost everywhere with a sense of warm homegrown pride. That is especially so in his hometown of Grand Rapids, where Mr. Ford has been regarded almost as an institution and as Mr. Republican for years.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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161-1355

372

He is, after all, the first Michigan resident and member of a major political party to be nominated for one of the nation's two top national offices since Lewis Cass of Michigan ran for president on the Democratic ticket in 1848.

Despite their immediate approval, congressional leaders of both parties have quite wisely and properly said that Mr. Ford's nomination will be subjected to intensive scrutiny and discussion. In employing the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution for the first time to fill a vacancy in the office of vice president, the Congress, in effect, is standing in for American voters who heretofore have made this choice. Congress is also setting a precedent for any future use of the new amendment to fill a vacancy.

Mr. Ford's nomination clearly fulfills a number of criteria for Mr. Nixon in what is certainly the most troubled time of the American presidency.

He is someone Mr. Nixon has known well all his political life and in whom he has great trust. He has, as Mr. Nixon said Friday night, shared the President's views on foreign affairs, especially on the earlier conduct of the war in Vietnam, and on national defense priorities. He is respected and admired on both sides of the aisle in Congress, the arena for many of Mr. Nixon's present and future potential difficulties.

Furthermore, and perhaps foremost in Mr. Nixon's mind, Mr. Ford's nomination seems a safe one. Unlike others in contention — Nelson Rockefeller, Ronald Reagan or John Connally — he was not a potential candidate for president in 1976 and overcomes the national and congressional difficulties that might have cast over the nomination.

Mr. Ford said after the nomination that he has no intention of running for president or vice president three years from now. Circumstances could change, but most members of Mr. Ford's own party, who have never propelled him toward high national office before, will probably accept that declaration as they continue to search for the best-possible GOP presidential candidate in 1976.

Integrity deserves the most serious consideration, given the national disgrace of Watergate and Mr. Agnew's felony conviction in connection with political graft and corruption. Mr. Ford's record is without serious known blemish. The congressional investigation and hearings on his nomination should thoroughly examine those questions that have been raised about his record, including his failure to report himself \$11,500 in campaign contributions in 1969, and his insensitivity in accepting a bank directorship which he later resigned. — In Mr. Ford's own behalf — as the Agnew case has shown — but more importantly for the good of the country, there should be no questions about his integrity or record left unanswered by the Congress before he is confirmed and takes office.

The unanswered question about Mr. Ford is whether, as Mr. Nixon asserted, he is by intellect, leadership ability, background, and depth of character qualified to serve as president if that event should ever arise.

Certainly, his close relationship to the White House as minority leader of the House of Representatives has given him a background of foreign and domestic affairs and problems far greater than that of most other congressmen. However, other Republicans of national stature, like Nelson Rockefeller or Barry Goldwater, and even two of Mr. Ford's Republican colleagues from home, Gov. William Milliken and Sen. Robert Griffin, are at least as well qualified for the presidency.

Mr. Nixon, however, has avoided many of the pitfalls that could have arisen with another selection, especially if his nominee had been — as many once suspected it would be — John Connally, whose so-recent political conversion and wheeler-dealer image could have divided both the Congress and the country.

The President wants to move the country forward, beyond Watergate and Spiro Agnew. Insofar as that goal involves the President's working relationship with Congress, the nomination of Mr. Ford is an eminently practical step.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Bircher Reveals Rep. Ford's 'Secret' Tie

Free Press Washington Staff

WASHINGTON — Republican House Minority Leader J. Edgar Ford took a deep breath and "confessed" Thursday that he belongs to the "Bilderbergers" — labeled a "secret society" by the John Birch Society.

Ford, of Grand Rapids, and

other GOP congressmen were accused by John Roussetot, national public relations director of the Birch Society, of employing "political hysteria" in attacks on the ultra-right wing group for being a secret society.

"They're afraid we'll tell the truth," Roussetot said. "Well, ask them about the Bilderbergers — it's a secret society."

WHEN ASKED, Ford said he had attended two meetings of the Bilderbergers.

"It's secret — to the extent that we meet but don't put out any press releases," Ford said. "But we don't do anything but talk. We don't make any decisions and we have no power or standing."

He explained that the Bilderbergers grew from an idea of Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands who, in 1951, invited some of the free world's most prominent intellectuals, businessmen and political leaders to discuss informally the world's problems.

The first session was held in Oosterbeek, Holland, and the press stuck the name of the meeting place — the Bilderberg Hotel — to the group.

Annual meetings since then have been held in various countries. Ford attended the 1962 session, in Sweden, and the 1964 gathering, in Williamsburg, Va.

\* \* \*

"THERE WAS NEVER any secret about these meetings," Ford said. "We are a mixed bag — Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, liberals.

"Some of the other people from the United States who have attended were (the late) Christian Herter (President Eisenhower's Secretary of State) and Dean Rusk (President Johnson's Secretary of State)."

Ford said that Roussetot might have mentioned other "secret societies" that Ford belongs to.

"I'm a 33rd Degree Mason and I belong to two fraternities, Delta Kappa Epsilon and Phi Delta Phi, and to Michiganamua — now that's one that ought to fascinate Roussetot," Ford said.

Michiganamua is the senior honor society at the University of Michigan, which Ford attended.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Ford

Nixon

*The President Makes His Choice*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

GUEST EDITORIAL*Ford, the Bilderberger*

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch

OCT 26 1965

We are indebted to Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, the House Republican leader, for a bit of straight talk on the Bilderberg group. A spokesman for the John Birch Society recently charged that Mr. Ford belonged to the "secret" Bilderberg group and urged that he be questioned about it. He was.

Mr. Ford explained the group is an unofficial assemblage of public and private leaders from NATO nations that meets once or twice a year on the invitation of Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands to discuss world problems.

"It is secret to the extent that they don't put out any releases," said Mr. Ford, who has attended two conferences. "You don't belong, you get invited by the Prince." The participants just talk.

Mr. Ford got invited because his con-

gressional district formerly included Holland, Mich.; many of his constituents are of Dutch descent. The Prince has visited Holland from time to time, most recently to dedicate a windmill. Is there something subversive about this? Not to our thinking, but there is a contrary view.

Right-wing organizations have adopted the Bilderberg group, which first popped up in their literature, as far as we know, in the campaign paperback, "A Choice Not An Echo," written in support of the Goldwater candidacy by Mrs. Phyllis Schlafly.

Mrs. Schlafly cited the "DeBilderberg group" as demonstrating that "there do in fact exist secret groups of persons high in finance and government who meet secretly to make important plans they do not reveal to the public."

We feel Mr. Ford is absolutely sincere and forthright about his connection with the Bilderberg group, especially since he includes it in his biography in Who's Who.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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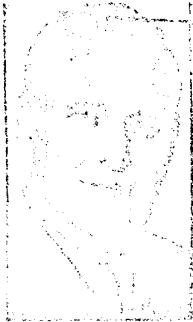
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378

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



## Rep. Ford Quizzed JAN 27 1970 In 'Fixer' Probe

WASHINGTON - The respected name of House GOP leader Gerald Ford has been caught up in the investigation of fixer Nathan Volooshen and House aide Martin Sweig.

The two wheeler-dealers have been indicted by a New York grand jury for aiding Speaker John McCormack's office in influence peddling. This column has now learned that a third member of their fixer team, Robert Winterberger, operated occasionally out of Ford's office.

Winterberger has avoided prosecution by cooperating with the grand jury. He is expected to appear as a government witness against Volooshen and Sweig at their trial.

Early in the investigation, Assistant Attorney General Will Wilson paid a secret call upon Ford to question him about Winterberger.

The GOP leader acknowledged to this column that Winterberger had dropped by his office occasionally but denied any knowledge of wrongdoing.

Ford said he had turned Winterberger over to his administrative assistant, Frank Meyer, who had made some "routine" inquiries such as "any congressional office would have done" for him.

Ford also recalled that Winterberger had come to his office "well recommended," but couldn't remember who had recommended him.

NO ONE WHO KNOWS GERRY FORD believes he would allow his name to be used by an influence-peddling ring. But in the back-slapping, backscratching, favorswapping environment of Capitol Hill, it is easy for a con-

man to take advantage of a Congressman's potent name.

Note: Winterberger was involved with Volooshen in a few alleged fixes, including the skillful shakedown of convicted embezzler Eddie Gilbert. Federal authorities told this column that Winterberger had been "moderately helpful" in building the case against Volooshen and Sweig.

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# Congress Leaders

## Cited for Getting

## Illegal Vote Funds

SEP 10 1970

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Secret Justice Department files show that two ship lines gave nearly \$6,000 in illegal campaign contributions for key members of Senate and House committees that control a rich flow of federal subsidies for the firms.

The largest contributions, totaling \$1,500, went for Rep. Edward A. Garmatz, D-Md., chairman of the House Merchant Marine Committee. Another \$1,000 was given for

Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, D-Wash., chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

IN ADDITION, both House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford and Democratic power ~~House~~ ~~Speaker~~ ~~Carl Albert~~ ~~Boggs~~ were among 15 congressmen and senators to whose campaigns the shipping firms have admitted giving illegal donations.

The Garmatz and Magnuson committees approve subsidy programs which pay \$200 million a year in federal aid to

American cargo and passenger ships.

A House appropriations subcommittee actually votes the subsidy funds, and other checks went for the top four members of this panel.

THE LEGISLATORS' names were kept secret when the two firms, American President Lines and Pacific Far East Lines, were fined \$50,000 each — the maximum permitted by federal court law — for the donations.

charged under the Corrupt Practices Act, which forbids campaign donations by corporations.

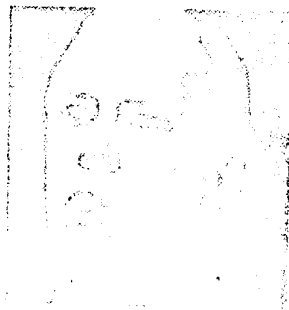
Among those identified in the closely guarded files is Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, D-S.C., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who is listed as getting a \$500 campaign check, although it was left out of the court case.

THE JUSTICE Department had shielded the names of the congressmen and senators be-

cause, government attorneys said, there was no indication they knew the contributions they received were illegal.

The checks were funneled from a special bank account through a public relations man and two lobbyists.

Asked about the checks, most of the various congressmen told the Associated Press they were unaware of accepting any unlawful contributions.



Rep. THOMAS Ford

378

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# Rep. Ford Concealed Gifts

## In Sworn Election Report

WASHINGTON — (AP) — House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford says he stayed within the law in his handling last fall of \$11,500 in campaign donations that he failed to report to Congress.

Ford acknowledged in an interview that he got the money from various special interest groups, including stock brokers, bankers, doctors, a labor union fund and an oilman.

The checks were signed over by Ford to Republican headquarters here at the same time that the party was pumping roughly the same amount — \$12,233 — back to Ford's district to pay off post-election debts.

The Michigan congressman, who acts as treasurer of his own main campaign committee, did not list the \$11,500 in contributions on his sworn statement to the House required under the Corrupt Practices Act.

INSTEAD, WHEN the post-election money wound up in other Ford campaign funds in his hometown of Grand Rapids, it was reported as a Republican donation.

Ford said he turned the checks over to the GOP headquarters because he had reached the legal limit his own campaign committee could get under Michigan law. He said he had no knowledge of how or why the similar amount was fed back into his other campaign groups.

Ford's sworn report to the House had said: "I hereby certify that the following is a

correct and itemized account of each contribution received by me or by any person for me with my knowledge or consent . . ."

Ford said in the interview that he had personally endorsed the checks which his "Ford for Congress Committee" funneled to the GOP headquarters. He added:

"I would say, under the interpretation of the law as it has been interpreted over the years, that my action was within the law."

Not included on Ford's required sworn statement were:

• A \$5,000 check from the Securities Industry Campaign Committee, a political fund for Wall Street stock brokers.

• \$3,000 from oilman John M. Shaheen of New York City.

• \$2,000 from the Bankers Political Action Committee, a fund for banks which opposed a regulatory bill that eventually was passed by Congress.

• \$1,000 from the political arm of the Boilermakers and Blacksmiths union with headquarters in Kansas City, Kan.

• \$500 from the Michigan Doctors Political Action Committee.

All the checks were listed by the Republican Congressional Committee as coming into its coffers between Oct. 30 and Nov. 9.

The companion Republican National Finance Advisory Committee, run by the same men at GOP headquarters, sent a total of \$6,760 in contributions to two other Ford groups in Grand Rapids Nov. 4 and 20.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
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☐ Being Investigated

161-1355

379

The GOP headquarters also paid directly \$5,473 in post-election advertising and printing bills from Grand Rapids firms.

IN CONTRAST, other Republican House candidates got a maximum of \$7,000 from the congressional group under its specific formula last fall.

Ford said, "I personally had nothing to do with" the post-election flow of money into his district and had no knowledge of how it came about.

Ford, who has served in Congress 22 years and has been GOP leader since 1965, won re-election easily last fall, trouncing Democrat Mrs. Jean McKee 88,000 votes to 55,000.

THE \$2,000 the Wall Street group gave Ford's campaign was by far its largest single contribution, triple the size of any of its checks for Senate races.

Ford said the check was delivered to his office by Walter Lever, a friend he had known since football days. Ford said: "I didn't ask any questions. He simply brought the check in."

Shaheen, whose oil firm has refineries in Canada, California and Alaska, also described Ford as an old friend. Although his \$3,000 appears on the GOP's report instead of Ford's, he said his contribution was for Ford and not for any national committee.

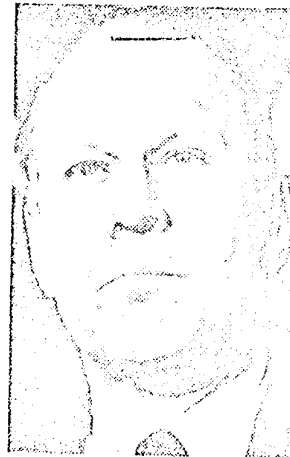
"I DON'T DEAL with impersonal committees — they waste the money," Shaheen said in a telephone interview.

Ford's four campaign committees, including the one he oversaw plus Latvians for Ford, Veterans for Ford and the Greek-American Committee for Ford, handled a total of about \$50,000 in his re-election effort.

In their public reports filed in Grand Rapids, the Latvians and the Veterans listed the \$6,760 they got after Nov. 3 as a contribution from the Republican Congressional Committee.

Other than the GOP money, the major donors to Ford's campaign were listed as Richard M. Scaife, an executive in Mellon family firms in Pittsburgh, and Forbes Mann, head of LTV Aerospace Corp. in Dallas.

Each gave \$2,000 to either Latvians or Veterans.



REP. Gerald R. Ford: "I would say . . . that my action was within the law."

DE 161-1355

MARRIAGE

DE 161-1355  
JHC/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted at  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on  
October 16, 1973:

b6  
b7C

LOIS HAWLEY, Deputy County Clerk, Kent County,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, provided the attached copy of the  
marriage license of GERALD R. FORD, JR. and ELIZABETH B. WARREN,  
File Number 96-172, dated October 14, 1948.

# Marriage License

19-13

STATE OF MICHIGAN

1918

1918

To any person legally authorized to solemnize marriage in the State of Michigan,

Ceremony:

Marriage may be solemnized within 30 days of date of issue in the State of Michigan between:

GERALD R. FORD, JR.

and

ELIZABETH B. WARREN

35

White

30

White

1011 Santa Cruz St., S.E.

330 Washington St., S.E.

Grand Rapids 6, Michigan

Grand Rapids 3, Michigan

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Chicago, Illinois

Attorney

Stylist

Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

William B. Bloomer

Dorothy Gardner

Hortense Kehr

None

Once

Bloomer

parent's or guardian's consent, in case she has not attained the age of eighteen years, has been filed in my office. An affidavit has been filed in this office, as provided by Public Act No. 128, Laws of 1907, as amended, by which it appears that said statements are true.

In witness whereof, I have signed and sealed these presents,

this 14th day of October, A. D. 1918.

1.6.

LEWIS J. FORDMAN

County Clerk

This marriage license VALID 30 days after date of issue.

## Certificate of Marriage

Between Mr. Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

and M. Elizabeth B. Warren

I hereby certify that, in accordance with the above license, the persons herein mentioned were joined in marriage by me at Grand Rapids, county of Kent, Michigan,

on the 14th day of October, A. D. 1918, in the presence of

William B. Bloomer

of

Chicago, Illinois

and

Janet K. Ford

of

Grand Rapids, Michigan

as witnesses.

Witness my hand and seal of office at Grand Rapids, Michigan, this 14th day of October, A. D. 1918.

152 E. Washington Ave., Grand Rapids, Michigan

THIS ORIGINAL must be returned WITHIN TEN DAYS after the date of marriage to the COUNTY CLERK, who issues the license, under penalty of \$100.00 fine, or imprisonment for not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days, or both, at the discretion of the court.

State of Michigan)  
County of Kent )

383

I, JACK BRONKEMA, Clerk of  
the Circuit Court of said County  
do hereby certify that the copy  
on the reverse side of this docu-  
ment is a true copy of the record  
now on file in the office of the  
Clerk of said County and Court.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
and official seal at the City of Grand Rapids, in said  
County this 16th day of October AD - 19 73  
JACK BRONKEMA, COUNTY CLERK  
by Jack Bronkema  
Deputy County Clerk

DE 161-1355  
JFC:fln-1

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 17,  
1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

b6  
b7C

LOIS HAWLEY, Deputy County Clerk, Kent County,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, provided the attached marriage  
license of WILLIAM C. WARREN and ELIZABETH A. BLOOMER.

No. 324

# Marriage License

IN 42

Kent County, Michigan

5-21

We now present legally authorized to solemnize marriages in the State of Michigan,

## Greeting:

Marriage May Be Solemnized in the State of Michigan Between

Mr. William C. Warren and Miss Elizabeth A. Bloomer

affidavit having been filed in this office, as provided by Public Act No. 108, Laws of 1897, as amended, by which it appears that said

William C. Warren is 26 years of age, color is white, residence is 636 Fountain St., and birthplace was Grand Rapids, Michigan, occupation is life ins. salesman, father's name

Bert A. Warren, and mother's maiden name was Lena Javong, and has been previously married none time, and that said Elizabeth A. Bloomer

is 24 years of age, color is white, residence is 1354 Leonard St., and birthplace was Chicago, Illinois, occupation is none, father's name

William S. Bloomer, and mother's maiden name was Hortense Neahr, and who has been previously married none time, and whose maiden name was

and whose maiden name was, and whose Parent's or Guardian's consent, in case any has not attained the age of eighteen years, has been filed in my office.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto attached my hand and the

seal of Kent County, Michigan, this 23rd

day of May, A. D. 1902

LEWIS J. DONOVAN

County Clerk

L. S.

## Certificate of Marriage

Between Mr. William C. Warren and Miss Elizabeth A. Bloomer

I hereby certify that, in accordance with the above license, the persons herein mentioned were joined in marriage by me, at Grand Rapids, County of Kent, MICHIGAN, on the twenty-third day of May, A. D. 1902, in the presence of Charlotte H. Brown and Cora D. Brown, of Grand Rapids, Mich., as witnesses.

Edward Archibald Thomson

Edward Archibald Thomson

Minister, Park Church

THIS ORIGINAL must be returned to the County Clerk who issued the same WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE solemnization, under severe penalty, and the fee must be returned with the license.



State of Michigan)  
County of Kent )

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39  
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IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
and official seal of the City of Grand Rapids, in said  
County this 16th day of October AD - 19 1913

JACK BRONKEMA, COUNTY CLERK  
by Dea Miller  
Deputy County Clerk

WIFE'S DIVORCE

DE 161-1355  
JHC/bjk - 1

1973

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 16, 1972:

It was noted from a copy of the Marriage License, Kent County, Grand Rapids, Michigan, of GERALD R. FORD, JR. and ELIZABETH B. WARREN, File Number 96-172, that ELIZABETH B. WARREN was formerly married.

A review of divorce records, Kent County Courts Division, Grand Rapids, Michigan, revealed the following information:

ELIZABETH B. WARREN, maiden name Bloomer, and WILLIAM C. WARREN were divorced on September 22, 1947. Divorce Record Number S 10086, Cal. 9, indicated that a suit by Plaintiff, BETTY WARREN versus WILLIAM C. WARREN, Defendant, was filed July 3, 1947, in the Superior Court of Grand Rapids. In this petition, it was indicated that BETTY and WILLIAM WARREN were married on May 23, 1942, and that there were no children born of this marriage. Grounds for this petition was social and economic incompatibility. Further notation in this petition indicated that there was no property involved.

On September 22, 1947, Honorable THADDEUS B. TAYLOR, Superior Court of Grand Rapids, adjudged plaintiff household furniture and furnishings and also adjudged WILLIAM C. WARREN pay to BETTY WARREN \$1.00 in lieu of her dower rights. This sum shall be considered in full satisfaction of all claims. Honorable Judge TAYLOR granted this divorce.

CREDIT AND ARREST CHECKS

DE 161-1355  
HJL/clc - 1

ARREST

b6  
b7C

[ ] The following investigation was conducted by SE [ ]  
[ ] at Detroit, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

No record identifiable with the appointee was located  
at the following agencies:

Detroit Police Department  
Detroit, Michigan

Wayne County Sheriff's Office

Detroit Traffic Court,  
Detroit Police Department

DE 151-1355  
JAG/dlc/pjw -1

POLICE AND CREDIT RECORDS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] at Ann Arbor, Michigan:

b6  
b7c

On October 17, 1978, [REDACTED] Record  
Bureau, Police Department; [REDACTED] Sheriff, Record  
Bureau, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Credit Bureau, 311 North Main Street, advised  
the records of their respective offices made no reference  
to GARALD R. FORD, JR., or LESTER KING, JR.

DE 161-1355  
HJL/clc - 1

CREDIT

No record identical with the appointee was located  
at the Credit Bureau of Metropolitan Detroit per SE [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] on October 17, 1973.

	Page
XXI. ORGANIZATIONS.....	338
XXII. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.....	350
XXIII. MARRIAGE.....	381
XXIV. WIFE'S DIVORCE.....	387
XXV. CREDIT AND CRIMINAL.....	388

*Old pages*